

# THE MECHANICS BANK



1834-1919

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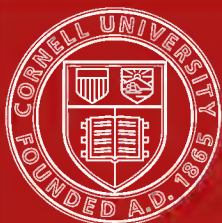
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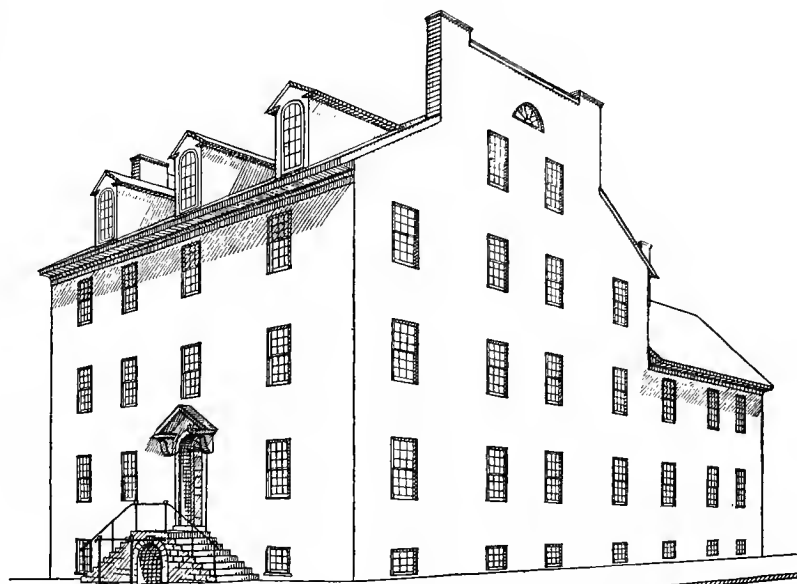


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KING (S. WARREN) ST

SECOND (W. STATE) ST.

— FRENCH ARMS TAVERN. —

# The Mechanics Bank

1834-1919

TRENTON IN NEW JERSEY

A HISTORY

BY

DR. CARLOS E. GODFREY



PRIVATELY PRINTED

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## FOREWORD

Over three-quarters of a century's successful banking warrants an institution in giving its story to the world.

In presenting this narrative to the public we have not confined it to a record of financial growth, but have endeavored to weave in, from authentic authority, current history of Trenton from the earliest colonial times.

The site of our institution is an historical spot of unusual State and National importance. To-day shadowy, but in their time real figures who participated in the formation of our Republic, passed across the stage that has now become a modern successful banking enterprise.

Congressional and Legislative sessions, social functions, business ventures, civic and patriotic organizations, touching the life of Trenton from the earliest days, all had their beginnings and activities on the site now occupied by The Mechanics National Bank of Trenton.

Those who may not be interested in the financial growth of the community will find a rich store of reminiscences and historic lore on the pages of this narrative. To aid the student of research, we have included a list of authorities for the records and statement herewith contained.

We commend this work to the kindly interest of the citizens of one of the most historic communities in the land, and we venture the hope that we have contributed something to the storehouse of memory in the way of literary and patriotic incidents, as well as in industrial and financial progress and growth.

THE MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK,  
EDWARD C. STOKES,  
*President.*

July 1, 1919.



# PART I

## THE HISTORIC SITE

On the southwest corner of King (now Warren) and Second (now State) Streets, the present site of The Mechanics National Bank, originally stood the stone stuccoed residence of John Dagworthy, classed as the largest and most handsome house in Colonial Trenton. It faced King Street, and was built for Mr. Dagworthy some time in the early 1730's.

The building occupied a lot having a frontage of 66 feet, which extended back 230 feet on Second Street. The main structure had an inside measurement of forty-five feet in width by forty-three feet in depth, two stories high, with a gable roof. Each story was traversed east and west in the middle by a spacious hall, containing four rooms on a floor, each provided with large open fireplaces, and with an exceptionally large room in the attic. Adjoining in the rear, along Second Street, was a two story kitchen built of the same material, the second floor being utilized for servants' quarters; and further back, at the end of the lot, was located the coach-house and stables.<sup>1</sup> The main entrance to the building was reached by eight stone steps, extending either way from the north or south, to a broad landing, thence to the door, in King Street.<sup>2</sup>

On November 1, 1740, the property became the official residence of Lewis Morris, the royal Governor of the Colony of New Jersey. He remained here until the 25th of June, 1742, when he leased "Kingsbury," now known

as "Woodlawn" and situated on South Warren Street, the present home of Mr. Edward A. Stokes.<sup>3</sup>

Thereafter, Mr. Dagworthy removed from his plantation near Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, to his former residence in Trenton,<sup>4</sup> and where he died September 4, 1756.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently the premises were sold at public sale on June 27, 1760 by the executors of the Dagworthy Estate.<sup>6</sup> Before the opening of the Revolution it was acquired by Samuel Henry, who owned and operated the iron works out Second Street on the Assanpink Creek,<sup>7</sup> which he occupied for his residence until the month of March, 1780, when Mr. Henry removed to his farm in Nottingham Township, near Trenton, where he ultimately died on May 10, 1784.<sup>8</sup>

On April 1, 1780, Mr. Henry leased his Trenton homestead to Jacob G. Bergen for tavern purposes.<sup>9</sup> He was from Princeton, where he had for some years successfully catered to the epicurean tastes of his varied guests both in his inn at the sign of the *College in Princeton* and later at the sign of the *Confederation*.

In transforming the house into a tavern it appears that an additional story, with the gable roof, was added to the building; and the two rooms on the south side of the hallway on the main floor were converted into one, having the width of twenty feet and the depth of forty-three feet, so it might be utilized in various ways by public assemblies.<sup>10</sup> This large room was ever after familiarly known as the "Long Room!"<sup>11</sup> In the basement a bar-room was established, which was entered from King Street by a door under the high stone steps in front of the building, and from the inside by stairways leading to it. On May 17, 1780, in the stereotype fashion of the day, Mr. Bergen announced in *The New Jersey Gazette* his



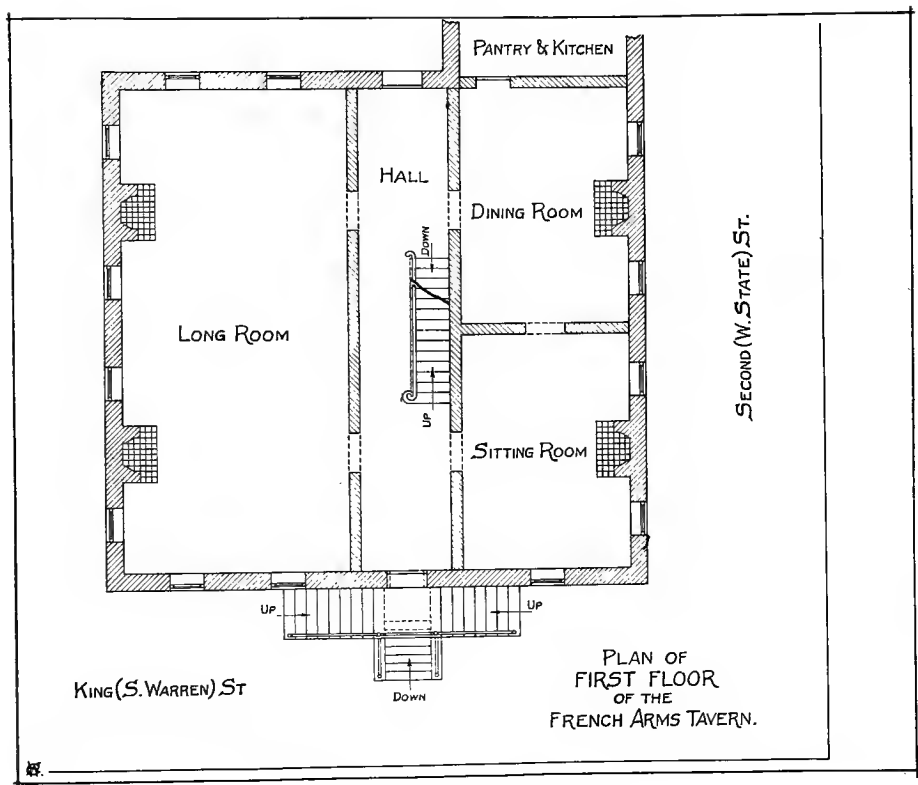


Diagram of Main Floor  
FRENCH ARMS TAVERN



possession of the tavern, where he "hopes his endeavours to serve the Publick in his business at this place will be acceptable," and which he called the *Thirteen Stars*.<sup>9</sup>

The opening of the hostelry by Mr. Bergen in 1780 marked the commencement of a series of festivities and other gaieties which made it the social centre of Trenton in bygone days. Its prominence was enhanced by the distinguished guests it entertained, and where occurred other attractive functions of State and National importance which rendered the house famous as the *French Arms* and later as the *City Tavern*. In this tavern also were organized banking, commercial and other institutions, and where miscellaneous transactions relevant to the people were conducted down to the time when the building was demolished in 1837 to make room for The Mechanics Bank.

On the Fourth of July, 1780, after the celebration of American Independency by the citizens, "A number of the Gentlemen of the town repaired to the Thirteen Stars, where a handsome dinner was provided" and where thirteen toasts were drank. "The whole was conducted with that chéerfulness, good order and decency, which should ever characterize the Freemen of America."<sup>12</sup>

Here in this tavern, in the year 1780, the House of the General Assembly held its legislative sessions, and where the Council met it in Joint Meeting on June 17, September 23, 26 and 27, October 30 and November 23, 1780, and again on January 8, 1781.<sup>13</sup> It might be shocking for the present generation to know that the House of Assembly of the State of New Jersey conducted its business up in the garret of this building; nevertheless, the proof is obtained from a contemporary ink inscription made upon the title page of one of the printed copies of

"The Votes and Proceedings of the Second Sitting of the Fourth Assembly," now in the State Library, which reads: *House of Assembly in Jacob G. Bergen's garret in Trenton, October 6, 1780.*

On February 14, 1781, John Cape announced in *The New Jersey Gazette* his succession to Jacob G. Bergen as proprietor of the *Thirteen Stars*. Some time prior to May 24, 1782, Mr. Cape changed the name of his tavern the *French Arms*.<sup>14</sup>

In pursuance of an order issued by Governor William Livingston on February 13, 1781, a general court-martial was convened at the inn on the 21st of the following month for the trial of Lieutenant-Colonel William Chamberlain of the Hunterdon County Militia, and such other prisoners ordered before it. The board consisted of Colonel Joseph Phillips, President; Colonels William Shreve and William Scudder; Lieutenant-Colonels John Taylor and Oakley Hoagland; Majors Joseph Brearley and John Van Emburgh; and Captains Philip Phillips, John Hunt, William Tucker, John Mott, Israel Carle and Timothy Titus; with William Willcocks as Judge Advocate.<sup>15</sup>

With expressions of unbounded pleasure the people of Trenton were startled with news brought by an express-rider on Monday afternoon, October 22, 1781, announcing the capture of Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown in Virginia. Here the important event was celebrated by the citizens on the following Saturday "with every mark of joy and festivity." The day was ushered in with the beating of drums, while the American colours were hoisted in various parts of the town. At 11 o'clock the Governor, Council and Assembly, and citizens generally, attended divine service at the Presbyterian Church

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY in Jacob J. Bergen's Garret  
in Trenton October 6<sup>th</sup> 1780

V O T E S

A N D

P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E

G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y

O F T H E

S T A T E

O F

N E W - J E R S E Y,

At a SESSION begun at *Trenton* on the 26th Day of  
*October*, 1779, and continued by Adjournments.

BEING THE SECOND SITTING OF THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY.

TITLE PAGE—ASSEMBLY JOURNALS

1779



conducted by the Rev. Dr. Elihu Spencer. At noon cannon were fired by the corps of artillery before the assemblage on the common at the Barracks. At three o'clock they again gathered at an entertainment provided by Mr. Cape where thirteen toasts were drank, severally accompanied with a discharge of cannon. At seven o'clock in the evening the citizens retired from the tavern to witness the brilliant illumination of the town.<sup>16</sup>

An event of State and National importance occurred at the *French Arms* in celebration of the Birth of a Dauphin and heir to the Crown of France, who was a son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The birth was formally announced to the Continental Congress on May 2, 1782, by order of the King through the Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty. By a resolve of Congress, adopted the following Tuesday, the fact was officially communicated by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Governor and the Legislature of New Jersey, so "the people of the States may partake in the joy which an event that so nearly affects the happiness of their great and generous ally cannot fail to excite."<sup>17</sup>

In compliance with the suggestion the event was celebrated in the State of New Jersey at Trenton on May 24, 1782. At noon the American flag was displayed from the staff on the *French Arms*, when the town artillery paraded close by in King Street. Promptly at three o'clock the guests assembled to an "elegant entertainment" provided in the Long Room of the *French Arms*. They included Governor Livingston, the Members of the Council and General Assembly, several army officers, and the gentlemen of the town and vicinity. After dinner fourteen toasts were drank, severally accompanied with a discharge of artillery, when the assembly retired at the

hour of five. Of this occasion *The New Jersey Gazette* for May 29, 1782, remarked:<sup>18</sup>

It could not but afford the highest pleasure to every friend of the liberties of his country and the rights of mankind to observe the joy and satisfaction manifested on this occasion. The liberal principles of the alliance, the generous aids offered to these states in consequence of it, and the great end it has been instrumental in securing, must ever interest us in the happiness of a nation whose character and conduct is the laudable reverse of that of our enemies.

Again we find the New Jersey Legislature holding Joint Meetings in the *French Arms* on October 30, November 2 and 30, December 26 and 29, in 1781, and also on May 23 and 30, and June 21, 1782.<sup>13</sup> Unfortunately the legislative records and other kindred documents do not indicate which branch was holding its regular sessions in the tavern. There is reason to believe that it was the House, and yet it might have been both houses of the Legislature.

The dancing school and the opportunity for the youth of Trenton to learn French and other foreign languages were advantages offered to the social set by Mr. D'Oriffiere from the French Academy in Philadelphia at the *French Arms*, commencing Wednesday, April 2, 1783. "All sorts of dances, the most in fashion, will be taught," said Mr. D'Oriffiere, "but principally the graces and manners."<sup>19</sup>

April 15, 1783, was a gala day in New Jersey for Trentonians, incident to the ceremonies observed for the "glorious peace" lately concluded at Versailles with Great Britain. The Governor of New Jersey, the Vice President of the State, Members of the Legislature, Judges of the Supreme Court, and other public officials, together "with a great number of the inhabitants of the town and



vicinity," including the trustees, teachers and students of the Academy, about 11 o'clock met at Rensselaer Williams's tavern in upper King Street and proceeded to the Court-house where the Governor's proclamation, declaring a cessation of hostilities in pursuance of a proclamation of Congress of April 11th, was read. Thereupon thirteen cannon were fired, succeeded by the huzzas of the people. Entertainments followed at three o'clock in the *French Arms*, the *Blazing Star* and *Royal Oak* taverns in King Street. At 7 o'clock the houses of the town were illuminated. Later in the evening the festivities of the day closed with a grand ball given in the *French Arms*.<sup>20</sup>

On the 28th of April, 1783, Mr. Cape, who had decided to retire from business in Trenton, sold at public sale the furnishings and other fixtures of the *French Arms*,<sup>21</sup> and in the following October became proprietor of the famous *Hull's Tavern* in New York City.<sup>22</sup>

Samuel Henry having leased his property to Jacob G. Bergen for three years commencing April 1, 1783, Mr. Bergen announced in *The New Jersey Gazette* on April 30, 1783, his return to the *French Arms* tavern in Trenton from the *Bunch of Grapes* he lately kept in Philadelphia.

The mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line at Philadelphia in June, 1783, and the resulting insults offered the Continental Congress by a portion of its soldiers, together with the non-assurance that further insolence from the riotous troops would be suppressed by the civil authorities of the State of Pennsylvania, created the greatest consternation among the congressional delegates and the inhabitants of New Jersey, especially in Trenton.

When Vice-President John Cox of the New Jersey State Council received on June 24th Mr. Elias Boudinot's

letter of the day before, informing him additionally of the authority invested in him for adjourning Congress to meet either at Trenton or Princeton, he summoned to the *French Arms* tavern a meeting of the inhabitants of Trenton and its neighborhood "who being justly alarmed at the daring insult offered to the Supreme Government of the American Union, and being desirous of testifying their zeal in support of the dignity and privileges of Congress,"<sup>23</sup> speedily passed resolutions which were forwarded to President Boudinot the next day by the chairman of the meeting:<sup>24</sup>

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Trenton and the Vicinity at the French Arms on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1783.

Having been informed from undoubted authority that a most gross and daring insult has been offered to Congress, the Supreme Government of the American Union, by a number of lawless People in arms, assembled at the State House in Philadelphia on Saturday last.

Resolved unanimously that we think it our immediate duty to express our resentment and indignation at so flagitious a proceeding.

Resolved unanimously that we look upon tyranny and anarchy with equal abhorrence; and as we have, at the risque of everything opposed the former, we are determined at the same risque, not to be wanting in our efforts to suppress the latter, on whatever occasion or under whatever form it may present itself.

Resolved unanimously that we consider the support of Civil Government and the majesty of the Laws as one of the first of Social duties, and riotous Citizens who disturb the public order and violate the dignity of the Union as the worst of Enemies.

Resolved unanimously that we feel the utmost cheerfulness in pledging our lives and fortunes to the Government under which we live, in whatever way our Services may be required, whether in resisting foreign invasion or quelling intestine tumults.

Resolved unanimously that we would deem ourselves highly honored by the presence of Congress, and by an opportunity of

testifying our zeal in support of their Dignity and Privileges, should they in their wisdom, think proper to adjourn to or fix their Residence in this State.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Inhabitants.

JOHN COX	}	Committee.
DAVID BREARLEY		
PHILEMON DICKINSON		
SAM <sup>L</sup> TUCKER		
WM C. HOUSTON		
SAM <sup>L</sup> W. STOCKTON		

With these resolutions the following report of the sub-committee appointed to ascertain what accommodations could be procured for the members of Congress was also transmitted to President Boudinot:<sup>25</sup>

We the Committee appointed by the Inhabitants of Trenton to inquire into and report what accommodations can be provided for Congress in this Town, have carefully attended to the Business committed to us, and, from the best Information we can collect in the short Time allowed us, are of Opinion that sixty Persons, or upwards can be accommodated here.

Trenton 25 June 1783.

MOORE FURMAN  
STACY POTTS  
BENJ<sup>N</sup> SMITH

Governor Livingston also wrote Mr. Boudinot on June 24th, assuring him of the loyalty of the citizens of New Jersey, and the honor and pleasure it would afford them to have the presence of Congress within its borders; and that as soon as he was advised of its movement to New Jersey, upon the least apprehension that the mutineers intended to prosecute their riotous measures, he would immediately give the necessary orders and think himself "not a little honored by being personally engaged in defending the representatives of the United States against every insult and indignity."<sup>26</sup>

These communications, of course, reached Mr. Boudinot after his decision had been made to withdraw Congress secretly from Philadelphia to Princeton late on the 24th of June, 1783, where it reconvened on Tuesday, July 1.

On the following day the resolutions formulated by the citizens of Trenton in the *French Arms* were laid before Congress,<sup>27</sup> when it unanimously

Resolved, That the president inform Mr. Cox, that Congress entertain just sentiments of the respectful manner in which the inhabitants of Trenton and its vicinity express themselves in their resolves of the 24th of June last, with regard to Congress.

That Congress highly applaud the proper resentment the citizens of Trenton and its vicinity have discovered against disturbers of the public peace and violators of the dignity of the Union.

In transmitting the congressional resolutions to Trenton Mr. Elias Boudinot, President of the Continental Congress, wrote:<sup>28</sup>

The Honorable  
JOHN COXE, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I take very peculiar pleasure in obeying the commands of Congress by transmitting their acknowledgements of the polite and respectful conduct of the Inhabitants of Trenton and its vicinity towards the Representatives of the United States on their adjournment into this State. They cannot but applaud the very proper and laudable spirit shewn by your worthy Fellow Citizens, against every violation of order and good government.

In order to convey the wishes of Congress on that occasion, in the most unexceptionable manner, I take the liberty of enclosing their Act of yesterday on that subject, which, you will oblige me by communicating to the honorable Committee and their Constituents.

I have the honor to be &c

ELIAS BOUDINOT.

In view of the resolution of Congress passed June 4, 1783, officially informing the executives of the several States of its intention to consider propositions for selecting a "permanent residence" for Congress on the first Monday in the following October, the New Jersey Legislature on the 19th of June in that year agreed to offer the United States jurisdiction over any district within the State to the extent of twenty square miles, and to grant £30,000 in specie for the purchase of lands and the erection of buildings. The resolutions making these concessions also invited the inhabitants of New Jersey desiring the National Capitol in their particular locality to transmit their proposals to their representatives in Congress before the time limited for consideration; and it also provided that the proceedings of the inhabitants of Lamberton, now South Trenton, inviting Congress to make choice of their neighborhood for its permanent residence, were directed to be transmitted to that "honorable body." This was done by Ephraim Harris, Speaker of the House of Assembly, accompanied with his letter of even date.<sup>29</sup> The proceedings of the citizens of Lamberton, and the accompanying map, have peculiar local interest, and they read:<sup>30</sup>

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Western Part of the Township of Nottingham in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, on Monday the sixteenth Day of June 1783, it was agreed as follows—

That Whereas it appears to be consistent with the Welfare and true Interest of the United States that Congress should have a fixed Place of Residence, with Jurisdiction and certain Powers within the same; and

Whereas we are informed that great offers have been made by the States of New York and Maryland to induce Congress to make their respective States the Permanent Residence of that august

Body; and having Reason to flatter ourselves that a Majority of Congress would, on many accounts, prefer New Jersey to either of those States for that Purpose; and as we conceive the Western Part of the Township of Nottingham in the County of Burlington, from its high pleasant and healthy Situation, being at the Head of Navigation, on the River Delaware, abounding with every Convenience, affords a Situation, of all others in the State, the most suitable for the Purposes above mentioned

We the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Western Part of the said Township of Nottingham being truly sensible of the advantages that will redound to whatever State Congress shall finally make Choice of for their permanent Residence, and anxious to promote the Interest of New Jersey do hereby signify to The Honorable The Legislature of this State, now sitting, that it is our hearty and sincere Desire to subject ourselves to such exempt Jurisdiction as they in their wisdom may think proper to grant to the United States in Congress assembled, for the purpose of supporting the Honor and Dignity of that august Body

JOHN STEVENS JUN<sup>R</sup>

JOHN COX

HUGH RUNYON

JO<sup>S</sup> HIGBEE

MOORE FURMAN

WM SNOWDEN

PHILIP FESTER

JOHN JAMES

ENOCH ANDERSON

JEREMIAH ANDERSON

RICHARD BROWN

LEWIS YARD

JOHN CRAMER

THO<sup>S</sup> JANNEY

SAMUEL SLACK

SILVESTER DOYLE

JONATHAN BRYANT

WILLIAM SPROLS

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

WILLIAM RHODES

DANIEL REEDER

ABRM HUNT

ALEXANDER DOUGLASS

ELIHU SPENCER

ROBERT QUIGLEY

JOSEPH MARGERUM

JAMES RHODES

GODFREY WIMER

JONATHAN RICHMOND

GEORGE BROWN

NICOLOUS MULLER

ROBERT ASHMORE

JOHN TAYLOR

EDMOND CONNOR

THO<sup>S</sup> YARD

JOB SCOTT

NICHOLAS COLGET

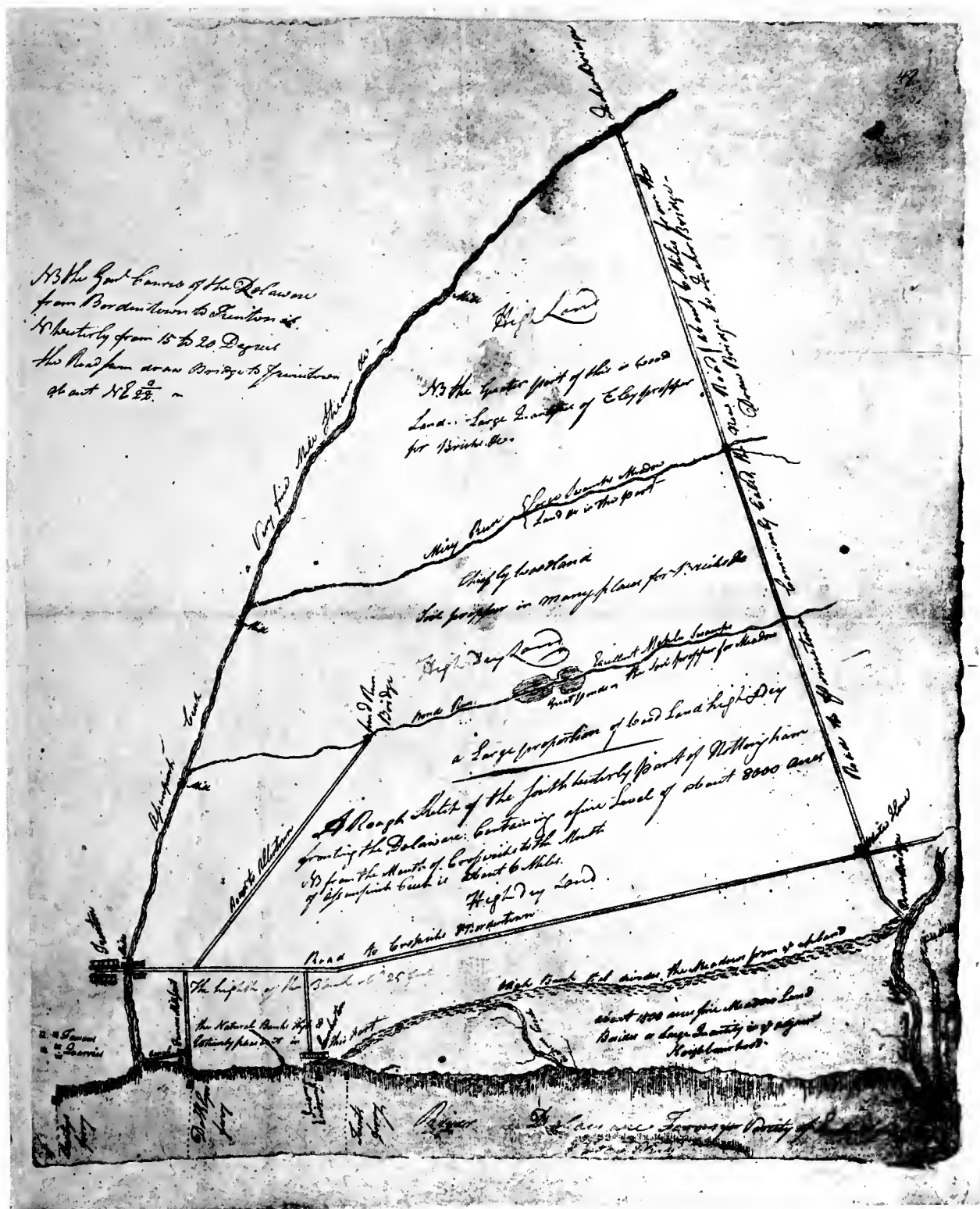
JOHN ROWLEY

JAMES HOOPER

JAMES GREEN

BENJAMIN LANING

EVAN RUNYON



PROPOSED NATIONAL CAPITOL SITE IN TRENTON  
 Photograph of the original manuscript map in the Library of Congress.





RANDLE MITCHELL	ABRM WOGLUM
THOS ASHMOOR	BARNEY JOHNSTON
JOHN CLUNN	PAUL THORP
BARNT DEKLYN	THOMAS BOCK
RICHARD MORGAN	ROBT PEARSON
JOHN WATSON	WILLIAM WATSON
JOSEPH WATSON	SMITH HILL
SAMUEL HILL	GEO ANDERSON
JACOB ROSZEL	WILLIAM WILLGUS
JACOB KITCHENSON	WILLIAM FORD
JOHN BOWERS	DAVID CUBBERLY
JONATHAN HUTCHINSON	RICHARD MOUNT
JOSIAH APPLETON	DAVID MCGIBNEY
WILLIAM KINNAN	WILLSON APPLETON
ROBERT NELSON	WILLIAM COALMAN
ZEBULON CHAMBERS	ROBERT PHARES
JAMES HUSTON	THOMAS HUTCHINSON
ROBERT HOUSTON	JAMES CHEHILL
JOHN M. STRONG	JOHN HUTCHINSON
JAMES SHIROY	SAMUEL JONES
JOHN CORNISH	JOHN CORNISH, JUNIOR
GEORGE SINCLAIR	ALEXANDER ADDOMS
ASIACH ADDOMS	EVAN REYNOLD
RICHARD CUMINS	JOSEPH SMITH
ROBERT L. HOOPER, JUN <sup>R</sup>	JOHN MITCHELL
ROBERT PEARSON, JUN <sup>R</sup>	

(Endorsed) The Hon<sup>l</sup> The Legislature at Burlington.

On October 6, 1783, according to agreement the question was taken up in which State buildings should be provided and erected for the residence of Congress. Upon this vote all the States were successively negatived. On the following morning Elbridge Gerry moved "that buildings for the use of Congress be erected on the banks of the Delaware near Trenton, or of the Potomac near Georgetown." Amendments left only the names of the rivers, and before the close of the day a final resolution

was adopted that the site should be "near the Falls" of the Delaware near Trenton. A committee of five were appointed to view the situation of the country adjacent to the "Falls" and report to Congress.

The selection of Trenton, or its immediate vicinity, for the permanent seat of the general government seemed to be an accomplished fact; but the minority against the Delaware location was so large and influential, a compromise was effected by a resolution adopted on the 21st of the same month providing that two residences should be provided for Congress, one near the Falls of the Delaware and the other at or near Georgetown on the Potomac.

The members of the Continental Congress did not view their Princeton accommodations through rosy glasses, for on October 10th they commenced discussing departure. The news quickly roused the people of Trenton to vigorous action, and they assembled in town meeting at the *French Arms* to formulate attractive conveniences to induce the lucrative guests to adjourn to this place.<sup>31</sup>

Trenton 13 October 1783

We whose Names are subscribed do engage that, if Congress shall think it fit to adjourn to this Place, we will furnish the Accommodations annexed to our respective Names, and render the same as convenient as possible.

Stacy Potts his Dwelling-house 42 by 33 Feet, two Stories, ten Rooms, 6 with Fire-places—a Kitchen—and Stabling for 6 Horses

Jacob G. Bergen his Dwelling-house 45 by 43 Feet, three Stories, 11 Rooms, eight with Fire-places—a Kitchen—and Stabling for 12 Horses

George Ely his Dwelling-house 32 by 18 Feet, three Stories—6 Rooms a Fire place in each—a Kitchen

Alexander Chambers his Dwelling-house 34 by 26 Feet, two Stories, 7 Rooms, 5 with Fire-places.

- David Fick his Dwelling-house 40 by 20 Feet, a Story and Half, 7 Rooms, 4 with Fire-places—a Kitchen—Stabling for 6 Horses—
- Samuel Tucker, Esq. 2 Rooms with Fire-places
- John Dixon 3 Rooms with Fire-places—1 without—Stabling for 3 Horses
- John Bell 2 Rooms with Fire-places
- John James 5 Rooms, 3 of them with Fire-places—Stabling for 8 Horses
- William C Houston 1 Room with a Fire-place
- Conrad Kotts 1 Room with a Fire-place—cannot board or lodge any Person—Stabling for 6 Horses
- Isaac Collins 1 Room with a Fire-place 33 by 17 Feet for an office if wanted—cannot board or lodge any Person
- Paul Atable 4 Rooms with Fire-places—cannot board any.
- Isaiah Yard 3 Rooms 1 with a Fire-place—stabling for 10 Horses
- A Janney 4 Rooms with Fire-places
- Hugh Runyan—Stabling for 25 Horses
- Peter Hankinson 3 Rooms, 2 with Fire-places—Stabling for 2 Horses
- Joseph Milnor 2 Rooms with Fire-places
- Peter Crolus 3 Rooms with Fire-places—will dine 10 Persons if necessary—
- Elisabeth Hooton 3 Rooms, 1 with a Fire-place—will dine 6 Persons if necessary—
- Mary Barnes 2 Rooms with Fire-places
- Micajah How 3 Rooms with Fire-places
- Job Moore 1 Room with a Fire-place
- Moore Furman, Esq a large office with a Fire-place
- Joseph Higbee, 3 Rooms—2 with Fire-places—Stabling for 4 Horses—will dine 6 Persons if requisite
- Benjamin Smith 1 Room with a Fire-place
- Charity Britton—Stabling for 12 Horses
- Robert Quigley 1 Room with a Fire-place
- Four other convenient Rooms may be had in and near the Town should they be wanted

It is to be understood that those who furnish rooms, also furnish Boarding, unless where it is otherwise noted. Where it is not insisted on some would wish to be excused from providing Dinners, as Congress do not dine at comon Family-hours, others would chuse to dine a larger number than they can furnish Rooms for.

A room 43 by 20 Feet, with two Fire-places can be appropriated for the Meeting of Congress in one of the Houses which will be given up—(Mr Bergens)

Besides those above-mentioned a handsome House about 2 Miles from Town will be given up if wanted.

Good Hay in any quantity

M. FURMAN  
WM C HOUSTON  
JAMES EWING  
STACY POTTS  
BENJ<sup>N</sup> SMITH

The Original signed by the Inhabitants is left in the Hands of Moore Furman Esq<sup>r</sup>

Mr Potts will relinquish any Part of his Furniture which may be wanted.

If Mr Bergen cannot obtain another House, he might have Mr Potts. He hopes to get another, but is not certain as yet

Mr Ely will spare Furniture for a small Family

Mr Chambers the like

Mr Fick some Furniture, but supposed scarce sufficient for a Family—

If it should be more agreeable that the Inhabitants who proposes to give up their Houses should continue in them and take lodgers, that will be done as far as half the rooms at the least, either to small Families, or Individuals—may be that it will not suit all of them to provide Dinners

Mr Atablie will leave furniture—

Upon careful Examination and Enquiry, am of opinion the foregoing may be depended on

WM C HOUSTON

(Endorsed) Representation Octo. 13<sup>th</sup> of Inhabitants of Trenton Read October 15<sup>th</sup> 1783

These inducements or those additionally offered by the people of Princeton on the same day were not sufficiently alluring to prompt Congress to accept either, for on Tuesday, November 4, 1783, Congress adjourned

from Princeton to meet at Annapolis, Maryland, on the 26th of the same month.

On December 27, 1783, the committee appointed on the 7th of the previous October to view the country surrounding the Falls of the Delaware submitted to Congress the following report:<sup>32</sup>

The Committee consisting of Mr. Gerry, Mr. Peters, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Ellery & Mr. Reed, who were to repair to the falls of Delaware to view the Situation of the Country in the neighbourhood, & to report a District for a faderal Town, submit the following report

That those of the Committee, in the absence of the other two, who were notified of the Meeting repaired to Trenton, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November last, & surveyed the Ground from Howells Ferry to Lamberton on the N Jersey side, & from the opposite points on the Pennsylvania Side of the Delaware—that after a careful attention, they deemed it expedient to report a District in each of the said States that a preference might be given to the State which should secure the soil on the most reasonable Terms, & comply with the Resolution of Congress respecting the Jurisdiction—that the District on the N Jersey Side, is at Lamberton, & the District on the Pennsylvania Side, near the Falls of the Delaware beginning at a Hill above the Mills owned by Colonels Wilson & Bird, & extending a Mile up the River—That the Committee were attended by Capt Hutchins, Geographer to the United States, whose plan of the two Districts & Remarks thereon, is also submitted to the Consideration of Congress—

From various motives the people of Trenton were not insensible of the honor conferred on it by Congress in designating it as the permanent site of the general government, for Dr. David Cowell, who died December 18, 1783, bequeathed to Congress one hundred pounds “if they settle themselves at Lamberton,” which *The New Jersey Gazette* contemporaneously stated was probably the first legacy ever given to the United States.<sup>33</sup> George Davis

of Trenton also manifested his interest in a letter which he wrote the Congress on January 4, 1784, offering to sell or lease his two farms on "reasonable terms" to any of its delegates, "situated in Maidenhead about 2 or 2½ miles from Trenton on the great road leading from Trenton to Princetown."<sup>34</sup>

In pursuance of the resolution of April 26, 1784, Congress finally adjourned from Annapolis on the 3d of the following June to meet at Trenton on October 30th ensuing. In the annals of Trenton it is doubtful if any event could have been more animating to its citizens than the receipt of this intelligence brought by post-riders in June, 1784, for the honor had been twice sought with failure during the previous year.

The New Jersey Legislature very shortly after it had convened in New Brunswick on August 25, 1784, passed a joint resolution empowering James Ewing, Moore Furman and Conrad Kotts, or any two of them, to procure a "Dwelling House" for the President, "and also a House for Congress to sit in for the dispatch of public Business."

In compliance with this authority the Commissioners, on August 31st of the same year, entered into the following interchangeable agreement with Jacob G. Bergen for the lease of the *French Arms* tavern for the use of the Continental Congress in Trenton.<sup>35</sup>

Memorandum of an Agreement Between Jacob G. Bergen of the one part & Moore Furman, James Ewing & Conrad Kotts of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Jacob G. Bergen doth hereby Agree to Rent the house he now lives in Situate Near the Market house in Trenton late the Property of Sam<sup>l</sup> Henry Dec<sup>d</sup> and Now held by a lease for and untill the first day of April in the Year Seventeen hundred & Eighty Six at the Yearly Rent of one hundred & fifty pounds, unto the said Moore Furman James Ewing & Conrad Kotts for the use & purpose of the Congress of the United States of

Memorandum of an Agreement Between Jacob G. Bergen of the one part & Moore Furman James Ewing & Conrad Kotts of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Jacob G. Bergen doth hereby Agree to Rent the house he now lives in. Situate Near the Market house in Trenton. late the Property of Sam<sup>r</sup> Henry De<sup>r</sup> and Now held by a lease for and untill the first day of April in the Year Seventeen hundred & Eighty Six. At the Yearly Rent of one hundred & fifty pounds, unto the said Moore Furman James Ewing & Conrad Kotts. for the use & purpose of the Congress of the United States of America to Set in. from the Thirtieth day of October Next. for and untill the End and Expiration of the said Lease. In Consideration of Which. the said Moore Furman James Ewing & Conrad Kotts. Doth Agree to pay or Cause to be paid unto the said Jacob G. Bergen the Sum of one hundred & Seventy five pounds. By an order on the Treasurer of this State on the Thirtieth day of October. in Gold or Silver Money. and also to pay or Cause to be paid the said Yearly Rent, of one hundred & fifty pounds. Agreeably to the said lease. It is further Agreed upon that the said Jacob G. Bergen is to have and Retain the use of the Stables and Garden Ground. for and During. and so long as the Congress may Set in the said house. and it is Agreed upon that the said Jacob G. Bergen is to live in & Make use of the said house untill the said Thirtieth day of October. and untill the said Congress may want the same to Set in. In Witness Whereof the said Jacob G. Bergen doth set his hand & Seal this thirty first day of August 1784

Witness Present  
Lantyard

Jacob G. Bergen

Chas. Brandy

Lease. . . . . 175. -  
Table for Congress Hall. . . . . 15. -





America to Sit in from the Thirtyeth day of October Next for and untill the End and Expiration of the said lease. In Consideration of Which the said Moore Furman James Ewing & Conrad Kotts Doth Agree to pay or Cause to be paid unto the said Jacob G. Bergen the Sum of one hundred & Seventy five pounds by an order on the Treasurer of this State on the s<sup>d</sup> thirtyeth day of October in Gold or Silver Money and also to pay or Cause to be paid the said Yearly Rent of one hundred & fifty pounds Agreeably to the said lease & it is further Agreed upon that the said Jacob G. Bergen is to have and Retain the use of the Stables and Garden Ground for and During and so long as the Congress may Set in the said house and it is Agreed upon that the said Jacob G. Bergen is to live in & Make use of the said house until the said thirtyeth day of October and untill the said Congress may Want the Same to Set in.

In Witness Whereof the said Jacob G. Bergen doth Set his hand & Seal this thirty first day of August 1784

Witness Present

JACOB G. BERGEN

DAN YARD

CHAS<sup>S</sup> BRADY

On the 22d of September, 1784, the same Commissioners leased the frame homestead of Stacy Potts on King Street, now the site of the Rectory of St. Mary's Cathedral, for the official residence of the President of Congress. It was occupied by Colonel Richard Henry Lee from November 30, 1784 until his departure for New York on January 5, 1785. His family did not accompany him, and before his election as President, Colonel Lee occupied a room in the house of Micajah How on the east side of King Street below St. Michael's Church.<sup>36</sup>

In the following month the State Commissioners began preparations to furnish the Long Room in the *French Arms* tavern suitably for the use of Congress. The existing receipts and papers of the Commission show that the ceiling was white-washed, the walls repapered, and the windows provided with new curtains. The floor

was furnished with a new carpet; a platform was erected in the centre of the south side of the room between the two fire-places, which was also carpeted and provided with a small desk and a high back chair for the use of the President. In the room stood thirteen new tables covered with green cloth and finished with round-headed brass nails, and forty-eight new windsor chairs. The fire-places were also equipped with a set of new large brass andirons, shovels and tongs.<sup>35</sup>

On Monday, November 1, 1784, the Continental Congress opened its sessions at Trenton in the Long Room of the *French Arms* with only seven members present. In the absence of a quorum Congress was unable to proceed with business until the 30th of that month, when, upon the appearance of the representatives from eight of the States, it organized with the election of Colonel Richard Henry Lee as President.

The Hon. Peter John Van Berckel, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Netherlands, arrived in Trenton on Friday, December 3, to confer with the officials of the Continental Congress.<sup>37</sup> As no further mention is made of him it is assumed that he returned to his Legation in Philadelphia on that or the following day.

On the sixth of the same month General Lafayette, who happened to be in Trenton momentarily, formally wrote the President of Congress the following letter:<sup>38</sup>

Trenton December the 6<sup>th</sup> 1784

Sir

In this long wished for opportunity to present Congress with a tribute of my Respect and Gratitude, I Heartily lament the Necessary shortness of my visit to America, and Unless Congress Have Particular orders for me will soon be obliged to Embark for Europe—on Friday Evening, Sir, I will do Myself the Honour to

wait upon Your Excellency, and in taking leave of Congress Before My departure, will be Happy to receive what Commands they may please to lay Upon one of their Most Affectionate and devoted servants.

With the Highest Respect I have the Honour to Be  
 Your Excellency's  
 Most obedient Humble Servant  
 LAFAYETTE

This communication was officially referred by President Lee to a congressional committee on the 9th of that month, consisting of Messrs. Jay, Williamson and Hardy, which immediately reported that "the merit and services of the Marquis renders it proper that such an opportunity of taking leave of Congress be afforded him;"<sup>39</sup> whereupon, a special committee, consisting of one member from each State, was appointed to receive and take leave of General Lafayette in the name of Congress, and to prepare a letter commending him to the favor and patronage of his Most Christian Majesty, the King of France. The special committee named by President Lee were:<sup>40</sup>

ABIEL FOSTER, of New Hampshire.	ELBRIDGE GERRY, of Massachusetts.
WILLIAM ELLERY, of Rhode Island.	JOSEPH P. COOK, of Connecticut.
JOHN JAY, of New York.	JOHN BEATTY, of New Jersey.
WILLIAM HENRY, of Pennsylvania.	GUNNING BEDFORD, of Delaware.
JOHN F. MERCER, of Virginia.	HUGH WILLIAMSON, of North Carolina.
JACOB READ, of South Carolina.	WILLIAM HOUSTOUN, of Georgia.

On Friday afternoon, December 10th, General Lafayette arrived in Trenton, and by reason of the nature of his visit we must conclude that he became the guest of

President Lee at his official residence in the Potts' house. On the following day, immediately after the close of the congressional session, upon General Lafayette's appearance in Congress' chamber at the *French Arms*, he was formally received by John Jay, Chairman, and his associated committeemen, where the purport of the resolution of Congress on the 9th instant was communicated to him.<sup>41</sup> Thereupon the Marquis was pleased to make the following reply:<sup>42</sup>

Sir

While it pleases the United States in Congress so kindly to Receive me, I Want Words to Express the feelings of a Heart Which delights in their present Situation and the Bestowed Marks of their Esteem

Since I joined the Standard of liberty, to this Wished for Hour of my personal Congratulations, I Have Seen Such glorious deeds performed, and Virtues displayed By the Sons of America, that in the instinct of my first Concern for them, I Had Anticipated But a part of the love and Regard which devote me to this Rising Empire

During our Revolution, Sir, I obtained an Unlimited, indulgent Confidence Which I am Equally proud and Happy to acknowledge—it dates with the time, When, an Unexperienced Youth, I could only Claim my Respected friends paternal adoption—it Has Been Most Benevolently Continued throughout Every Circumstances of the Cabinet and the field, and in personal friendships I often found a Support Against public difficulties—While, on this Solemn occasion, I Mentioned My obligations to Congress, the State, the people at large, permit me also to Remember the dear Military Companions to whose Services their Country is so much indebted.

Having felt Both for the timely aid of My Country and for the part she, With a Beloved King, Acted in the Cause of Mankind, I enjoy an alliance so well Rivetted By Mutual Affection, By interest, and Even local Situation—Recollection insures it—futuraity does But Enlarge the prospect, and the private intercourse will Every day increase Which independent and Advantageous trade Cherishes in proportion as it is well Understood.

in Unbounded Wishes to America, Sir, I am Happy to observe the prevailing disposition of the people to Strengthen the Confederation, preserve public faith, Regulate trade, and in a proper guard over Continental Magazines and frontier posts, in a General System of Militia, in foreseeing Attention to the Navy, to insure Every kind of Safety—May this immense temple of freedom Ever Stand a Lesson to oppressors, an Example to the oppressed, a Sanctuary for the Rights of Mankind! and May these Happy United States attain that Complete Splendor and Prosperity which will illustrate the Blessings of their Government, and for Ages to Come rejoice the departed Souls of its founders! •

However Unwilling to trespass Upon Your time, I must Yet present You with Grateful thanks for the late favours of Congress, and Never Can they oblige me So much, as when they put it in my power, in Every part of the World, to the latest day of My life, to Gratify the Attachment Which Will Ever Rank me Among the Most zealous and Respectfull Servants of the United States

LAFAYETTE

Immediately upon the completion of these formal ceremonies President Lee handed to General Lafayette an autograph letter containing his personal congratulations and farewell,<sup>43</sup> together with a sealed envelope which he requested the Marquis to deliver personally to the Hon. Benjamin Franklin, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to France, inclosing a letter to him,<sup>44</sup> and also containing the congressional letter addressed to the French King commending the Marquis to his royal favor in recognition of the invaluable services which he had rendered to this country in the Revolution.<sup>45</sup> The package addressed to Dr. Franklin was evidently forgotten by General Lafayette when he left Trenton on the following Monday morning, for President Lee forwarded it by special messenger on Wednesday, December 14th, to the Postmaster at New York, requesting him, in the name of Congress, to deliver the packet immediately to General



Philadelphia. Upon Mr. Schuyler's declination John Brown of Providence, Rhode Island, was elected in his place on March 16th, which office he in turn declined on May 19, 1785.\*

The personal influence of General Washington was then brought to bear on the members of Congress to crush the Trenton capitol proposition. On the eighth of February, 1785, he wrote President Lee of the Continental Congress: "By the time your Federal buildings on the banks of the Delaware, along the point of a triangle, are fit for the reception of Congress, it will be found that they are very improperly placed for the seat of the empire, and will have to undergo a second erection in a more convenient one."<sup>47</sup>

When the first appropriation to the Commissioners was called for by the Committee of Supplies on the 5th of April, 1785—"Federal buildings, \$30,000"—Mr. Grayson, of Virginia, moved its refusal, but he was overruled. Then, on motion of Mr. Pinckney, that vote was reconsidered, and the report was recommitted. Here the matter rested until the 22d of September, when the appropriation of \$100,000 coming before the house, Mr. Gerry moved to make it the whole sum of \$100,000, but none of the States except Massachusetts and New Jersey voted for it; whereupon, on motion of Mr. Hardy, of Virginia, the item was entirely stricken out of the bill, which was a virtual repeal of the ordinance.\* Thus died the project to make Trenton the Capitol of the United States.

Upon the departure of the Continental Congress from Trenton the State Commissioners, on January 4, 1785, leased the *French Arms* tavern to Francis Witt for the unexpired term of the lease ending March 31, 1786, in consideration that the New Jersey Legislature might

have the gratuitous use and occupation of the Long Room and the front room across the hallway for its deliberations, so long as Mr. Witt might occupy the tavern, whether before or after the expiration of the lease. The instrument reads:<sup>48</sup>

I Francis Witt of Trenton having taken the Lease of the House in Trenton which was taken by the State of New Jersey for the Use of the United States in Congress Assembled, do hereby Promise and agree to and with Moore Furman, Conrad Kotts and James Ewing on behalf of the said State, that in consideration of their giving up the said lease to me, I will furnish unto the Legislature of the State at every sitting which they may have during my continuance in the said house whether before the said lease shall expire or afterwards the whole of the room wherein Congress sat, and of the front room adjoining the same, free for the said Legislature to sit and deliberate therein during their whole sitting without rent, fee or reward, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of January, 1785.

FRANCIS WITT.

The recent appearance of this valuable document removes the confusion which has heretofore existed among historians as to when, if ever, Francis Witt kept a public house on the site of The Mechanics Bank. This fact is most important because it identifies the location of Witt's hostelry with the spot in question. It is known that certain important events occurred in the inn kept by Mr. Witt, and the recognition of the site is authority for the citation of the occurrences of the session of the New Jersey Legislature, the Presbyterian Board Meetings, the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, and other historic incidents.

The first known public house kept by Mr. Witt in Trenton was announced by him on January 21, 1782, at the sign of *Alexander-the-Great*, formerly kept by Cap-



tain John Clunn.<sup>49</sup> This sign was changed by Mr. Witt on the 18th of the following June to the *Blazing Star*.<sup>50</sup> Afterwards the hostelry was known as the *Indian King*; being the present site of the *Alhambra* at No. 25 North Warren Street, owned by Mr. James H. Letts.<sup>51</sup> When Mr. Witt leased the *French Arms* in January, 1785, he displaced that name for the sign of the *Blazing Star*, which he removed with him and retained as late as the summer of 1788, as shown by the advertisement of Anthony Robinson contained in the *Trenton Weekly Mercury* for August 26, 1788.

The New Jersey Legislature held its sessions in Trenton from October 25 to November 29, 1785; February 15 to March 24, and from October 24 to November 24, in 1786; October 23 to November 7, 1787; August 27 to September 9, and from October 28 to December 1, 1788, during the time Francis Witt was proprietor of the *Blazing Star* tavern. If the covenants specified in the above recited lease are to be accepted, the Legislature necessarily held its sessions in the tavern which is the present site of The Mechanics Bank.

The original Minutes of the Presbyterian Church in Trenton show that its Minister, Elders and Deacons did not always meet in sacred places, for on February 14, 1786, they officially met at the tavern of Francis Witt, as they did on the 4th of the following April, because, as the record runs, "the weather being severe adjourned (from the Church) to the House of Francis Witt, Inn-keeper in Trenton."

On December 11, 1787, in pursuance of a resolution of the Legislature passed on the 29th of the previous October, the delegates of the Convention for the ratification of the Constitution of the United States by the State

of New Jersey convened at the *Blazing Star* tavern for its deliberations.<sup>52</sup>

The proposed Constitution having been daily discussed and ultimately ratified by the Convention, on Wednesday morning, December 19, 1787, the duplicate engrossed parchment copies of the ratification were signed by the delegates assembled.

At one o'clock in the afternoon of the same day the members of the Convention, accompanied by the principal citizens of Trenton, were escorted from the *Blazing Star* tavern to the Court-House by a uniformed company of light infantry commanded by Captain Bernard Hanlon. In the presence of the large assemblage there collected the Secretary, Samuel Witham Stockton, read aloud the ratification of the new Constitution by the Convention of New Jersey. This publication created great applause, as thirteen rounds were fired by the militia present—"one more for the State of Delaware, and another for Pennsylvania." After which the Convention returned in the same procession to its chambers in the *Blazing Star* to wind up its unfinished business.<sup>53</sup>

The Convention before its final dissolution on the following morning, however, unanimously recommended to the Legislature that a cession of territory, not exceeding ten miles square, be offered Congress for the seat of the general government; which it did by a bill passed September 9, 1788. On September 7th, in the following year, Mr. Elias Boudinot, in the House of Representatives, once more proposed that the National Capitol should be located along the Falls of the Delaware, when his motion failed by a vote of 4 to 46. The final attempt made to have Trenton erected into the seat of the national government was by a resolution unanimously adopted by the Legisla-

ture on December 2, 1801, which was likewise unsuccessful.

On April 1, 1789, Henry Drake became proprietor of the tavern vacated by Mr. Witt, which tradition says then first became known as the *City Tavern*.

It was here where General George Washington and his escort dined with the principal citizens of Trenton, and where he held a public reception in the Long Room of the inn on April 21, 1789, following the beautiful ceremonies at the Assanpink Bridge where the little maidens of the town sang an ode with exquisite sweetness to the music "See the Conquering Hero Comes,"<sup>54</sup> while en route to New York to assume office as the first President of the United States—so graphically portrayed in Stryker's "Washington's Reception by the People of New Jersey in 1789."

It was also here in the *City Tavern* where President Washington remained over Wednesday night on September 1, 1790, while en route from New York to the southward. Besides the President and Mrs. Washington, the traveling party comprised Eleanor Parke and George W. Parke Custis, the two grandchildren of Mrs. Washington, Major William Jackson, Thomas Nelson, two maids, four white and four black servants, with sixteen horses. The next morning they breakfasted at Bristol.<sup>55</sup>

The New Jersey Legislature again held Joint Meetings in the *City Tavern* on October 29, November 9 and 24, 1791, and on May 23, 1792. After this date its deliberations were held in the new State Capitol building at Trenton.

In *The New Jersey Gazette* for June 26, 1793, Joseph Broadhurst "respectfully informs the public that he has removed to that large and commodious house—

the City Tavern, lately occupied by Mr. Henry Drake." While it was the invariable custom for the lease of this hostelry to begin on the first day of April, the rule also applied to Mr. Broadhurst, although his liquor license was not granted by the city authorities until April 16, 1793.

The tavern was thereafter continuously occupied as a licensed inn until the building was demolished in April, 1837. A list of the subsequent proprietors of the *City Tavern* are hereunto appended, which includes the date of the original license annually and individually granted to them by the City of Trenton:

JOHN VOORHEES,	April 26, 1800.
JOSEPH I. THOMPSON,	April 7, 1806.
JACOB HERBERT,	April 4, 1816.
JOSEPH I. THOMPSON,	April 6, 1818.
JOSEPH M. BISPHAM,	April 5, 1819.
JOSEPH W. VANCLEVE,	March 30, 1824.
BENJAMIN SOUTH,	March 31, 1831.
STACY KIRKBRIDE,	March 31, 1834.
MRS. FRANCES GREEN,	April 18, 1836.

Following the Year 1790, the most prominent social function at the *City Tavern* occurred while Lafayette was a guest of the City of Treton in the fall of 1824. Upon his arrival at New York on Sunday, August 15, of that year, the citizens of Trenton on the following Tuesday assembled at the *City Tavern*, where resolutions were passed providing ways and means for the entertainment of General Lafayette and his party, which comprised his son, George Washington Lafayette, and his secretary, Mr. Auguste Le Vasseur.<sup>56</sup>

About noon on Saturday, September 25th, General Lafayette and his suite were inducted into Trenton with great pomp and military splendor which "electrified our





GENERAL LAFAYETTE  
in 1824

izens with delight." That evening, about nine o'clock, left his apartments in the Trenton House to be entertained with supper by the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati in the Long Room of the *City Tavern*, where spent most of the night in conversation with his veteran friends of that Society.<sup>57</sup> The magnificent reception and entertainment given General Lafayette by the people of Trenton during the two days he remained our guest is minutely described in *The True American* for October 1, 1824.

The last time General Lafayette visited Trenton was on Saturday morning, July 16, 1825, when he took breakfast provided for him at the *City Tavern*, while en route from New York to visit Joseph Bonaparte at Bordentown, whence he went to Philadelphia.<sup>58</sup>

Other chronological occurrences at the *City Tavern* of local or state interest were:

In the annual celebration of American Independence at Trenton, beginning with 1780, the *City Tavern* was the favorite social centre for official entertainments and other functions of the day; and where also, commencing with 1786, the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati usually held its biennial sessions on the even years, as shown by the local newspapers of the day.

The Board of Elders and Deacons of the Presbyterian church held further official meetings at the tavern on March 22 and April 2, 1790; October 21, 1791; January 1, February 7, and September 10, 1792; October 28 and December 23, 1793; January 31, 1794; October 26, 1795; and the last on April 9, 1802.

Here the subscription books to the capital stock of the Trenton Banking Company were opened for three consecutive days beginning on January 8, 1805, and

where the Company also organized on the 12th of the following month.<sup>59</sup>

On January 9, 1817, the citizens of the State and "most of the Members of the Legislature" assembled at the *City Tavern* in the preliminary meeting for the organization of "The New Jersey Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the State of New Jersey," at which his Excellency, Mahlon Dickerson, the Governor of New Jersey, presided.<sup>60</sup>

The Hon. DeWitt Clinton, Governor-elect of the State of New York, who was in Trenton to demonstrate the practicability and utility of the proposed Morris Canal, on the afternoon of November 17, 1824, was given a complimentary dinner at the inn by the Members of the New Jersey Legislature.<sup>61</sup>

At the *City Tavern* on October 15, 1825, gathered the personal friends and admirers of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, Secretary of the Navy, in a testimonial dinner given in his honor "to evince their sincere respect, continued esteem and distinguished confidence" entertained for him.<sup>62</sup>

The citizens of Trenton and vicinity also gave a complimentary dinner to General Garret D. Wall and the Hon. James Neilson on April 8, 1826, "for their exertions in procuring the Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, granting the use of the waters of the Delaware for the proposed Delaware and Raritan Canal."<sup>63</sup>

At 6 o'clock P. M., December 22, 1827, the citizens of the city and township of Trenton, and the townships of Nottingham, Lawrence and Hopewell, favorable to the construction by the State of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, assembled at the tavern where a series of resolu-



ms were adopted and a petition prepared to the Legislature approving the proposition.<sup>64</sup>

On Friday, October 2, 1829, the preliminary meeting for the organization of the "New Jersey State Temperance Society" was held in the *City Tavern*, participated in by citizens from various parts of the State. Theodore Frelinghuysen, of Newark, was elected chairman, and Henry W. Green, of Trenton, secretary. The committee of arrangements then appointed were the Hon. Charles Ewing, Hon. Samuel L. Southard, John Wilson, George Sherman, Robert McNeely, William Halsted, David Johnston, Stacy G. Potts, Daniel Fenton, Thomas Sterling and John Mershon, of Trenton.<sup>65</sup> The Society was subsequently organized in the State House on the 10th of the following month.

The citizens of Trenton and its vicinity assembled at the tavern Christmas Night in 1832, to consider the expediency of establishing a steamboat line to Philadelphia.<sup>66</sup>

On Monday evening, December 23, 1833, at 7 o'clock, a large mass meeting of the citizens of Trenton favorable to the application pending in the Legislature for chartering The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank assembled in the *City Tavern*, where a petition was prepared and signed by the principal manufacturers, merchants, traders, mechanics and others soliciting its passage.<sup>67</sup>

Books for the subscription of the capital stock of the Trenton Manufacturing Company were opened here on February 24, 1835.<sup>68</sup>

The New Jersey State Bar Association also met here on April 18, 1835, to urge the completion of the western room of the State House to accommodate the Legislative

Council, Court of Appeals, Court of Chancery, State Bar Association and the Public.<sup>69</sup>

On Saturday night, February 27, 1836, the citizens of Trenton assembled at the tavern to express an opinion as to the propriety of the State becoming the purchaser of the property of the canal and railroad companies within the State.<sup>70</sup>

The subscribers for the erection of the "Calico Printing Mills" on the property of the Delaware Falls Company, pursuant to the articles of agreement, met here on the afternoon of September 24, 1836.<sup>71</sup> This was the last meeting of any importance held in the *City Tavern* before its demolition in April of the following year.

In the Raum House, occupying a portion of the original site of the City Tavern and which was acquired for the extension of The Mechanics Bank in 1872, was located the city post-office while Dr. John McKelway was postmaster from July 1, 1842, to July 18, 1843.<sup>72</sup>

The newspapers of the day show a multiplicity of other varied events occurring at the tavern. In the Revolution slaves were sold here, as were quartermaster's stores and goods contraband of war. Afterwards, it was the favorite site for town meetings of a minor character; annual meetings of manufacturing and other companies; and where dentists held their periodical headquarters. Here public vendues were frequently held for the sale of real estate, bank stock, horses, wagons and the like. It was the headquarters of most of the stage routes traversing Trenton during the Revolutionary and later days down to a comparatively short time before the *City Tavern* was demolished.

Without apparent authority local history has a tendency to credit Governor Livingston's residence at the

*French Arms* for the three years he resided in Trenton previous to his departure for his home in Elizabeth on April 19, 1783. An affidavit made by Colonel Ephraim Martin, published in *The Trenton Federalist* for April 3, 1803, shows that Governor Livingston lodged with the widow Crolius during his stay in Trenton. This widow was of kin to Peter Crolius who kept a general store in the same building located on the south-east corner of King and Second Streets, where the postoffice was situated in 1788,<sup>73</sup> now the present site of the Forstiechey building.

There is no landmark in historic Trenton which stands forth so pre-eminently as that now occupied by the Mechanics Bank. The combination of events occurring upon it are as conspicuous as they were extraordinary and rare. On the site resided one or more of our colonial governors. The Seventh Capitol of the United States was located in the Old Tavern, where the Continental Congress deliberated, and where the New Jersey Legislature frequently met during and after the Revolution. Here Lafayette took his farewell of Congress, and where—years after—he was entertained by his illustrious comrades in arms of the Society of the Cincinnati. The *first* American Flag definitely known to have been hoisted in Trenton was unfurled to the breeze from the *French Arms* on May 24, 1782.<sup>74</sup> In the tavern the National Constitution was ratified by the Convention of the State of New Jersey. And here also Washington was dined and where he held a public reception when en route to New York to be inaugurated President of the United States.

On the site frequently gathered men famous in the councils of the Nation and of the State, foreign diplomats, distinguished officers of the army and of the militia, and

other eminent citizens. Many notable functions of international, national, state and local interest occurred here. Among the prominent patrons of the tavern were such men as President George Washington, the Marquis Lafayette and other celebrities. Here also banks, manufacturing and other interests were organized and manipulated. The varied fascinating attractions by which the inn was surrounded, it long maintained its supremacy as the social centre of Trenton, and where congregated interesting convivial spirits in ye olden days.

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### ADDENDA

The following legislative bodies of New Jersey met in the inn on this site, when it was known either as the *Thirteen Stars*, *French Arms*, or the *City Tavern*:

#### COUNCIL

October	25, 1785 to November	29, 1785.
February	15, 1786 to March	24, 1786.
October	24, 1786 to November	24, 1786.

#### ASSEMBLY

May	10, 1780 to June	19, 1780.
September	13, 1780 to October	7, 1780.
October	24, 1780 to January	9, 1781.
October	23, 1781 to December	29, 1781.
May	15, 1782 to June	24, 1782.
October	25, 1787 to November	7, 1787.
October	25, 1791 to November	25, 1791.
May	15, 1792 to June	2, 1792.
October	23, 1792 to November	30, 1792.

## PART II

### THE MECHANICS AND MANUFACTURERS BANK

On January 10, 1833, a bill was introduced in the house of the General Assembly to incorporate The Mechanics and Manufacturers Banking and Insurance company of Trenton. What relation, if any, the movement subsequently had with the organization of this Bank can be surmised only from articles published in *The True American* for January 5, 1833, which anonymously invited the public, favorable to an application to be made at the approaching session of the Legislature "for a new bank to be called The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank, at this place," to meet the following Monday evening at the house of Miss Hannah Wildes, who kept the rising Sun Tavern now known as the American House. The measure failed to receive the approval of the Legislature on the 22d of the ensuing month, and was lost.

This institution, however, was created by and for the benefit of the citizens of Trenton. It was they who circulated and signed petitions within the city and surrounding country "praying for the establishment of an additional bank in the City of Trenton to be called The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank." These petitions were duly presented by the Hon. Edward S. McIlvaine and read before the House of Assembly on October 23, 1833; whereupon, in the afternoon of the same day, in accordance with the public announcement of the intention to do so, a bill was introduced in the House to incorporate the Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank.

On Monday evening, December 23, 1833, at 7 o'clock, in pursuance of notice inserted by "Many Citizens" in *The True American* on the previous Saturday, the inhabitants of Trenton favorable to the new banking proposition met at the City Tavern, where a memorial was by them prepared to the Legislature expressing in no uncertain language why The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank should be incorporated. This memorial was presented to the General Assembly by the Hon. William S. Sloan on the 9th of the following month.

*The True American*, on January 11, 1834, remarked:

We are pleased to observe that petitions for the establishment of a new bank in this city have been signed by the great mass of merchants, traders, manufacturers and mechanics doing business here. Better evidence could not be produced of the wants of the community; and we entertain the conviction that they will not be spread before the Legislature in vain.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 22, 1834, the bill came up for final passage when the House rejected it by a vote of 22 to 27.

The disappointment of the people of Trenton was "deeply felt and warmly expressed." *The True American* for January 25, 1834, in comment said, in part:

We have not lately had so much excitement among our citizens as appeared Wednesday afternoon last, when it was understood the Bank bill had been lost by four votes. \* \* \* It was a matter that came home to every business man, in every branch of trade and manufacture, and aroused within his bosom both surprise and dismay.

When, however, we take a retrospective view of the instability of the average banks that were incorporated by the various States throughout the Union generally for the bonuses which were given for the charters or which

were otherwise granted simply out of political or financial preference, with no liability imposed upon the directors or stockholders in the event of failure—simply the banks' promise to redeem their paper notes in gold or silver upon demand; and then turn aside and notice the avalanche of banks which were then infesting all country towns and most of the villages throughout the West, and especially the fact that notice had been published of intended applications for 105 new banks to the Legislature of New York within three weeks after the session convened on January 1, 1834, with capital amounting to about fifty-six millions of dollars, it required no foresight to see what must be the end. It was primarily the existence of these conditions which induced the New Jersey Legislature to adopt a concurrent resolution on January 21, 1834, providing for the appointment of a joint committee to ascertain "what further provisions of law are necessary to protect individuals and private interests from frauds or failure of banks."

While prior to 1826 the State of New Jersey almost invariably demanded and received bonuses in cash or other reserved equivalents for the issuance of a banking franchise, yet in granting it, irrespective of the numerous applications presented, the Legislature was particularly concerned to observe the class of people who sought these special privileges, as witnessed by the fact that between the years 1804 and 1833 thirty-one banks had been chartered out of which only eight had failed. During the legislative session of 1833 and 1834 twelve applications for charters of banks were made and only four granted. Thus we see, in some degree, the demoralized condition of the general banking system which actuated the conservative legislators to hesitate to grant the articles of incorpora-

tion to this institution by the narrow majority of four members, in a city having less than four thousand inhabitants and which already possessed an established bank since 1804.

However, the people of Trenton immediately revived their forces by retaining General Samuel R. Hamilton and the Hon. William Halsted, two of the most eminent lawyers in this city, who, together with the Hon. Charles Parker, the popular State Treasurer, on the morning following the rejection of the bill—Thursday, January 23d—appeared before the House of Assembly to advocate the reasons why the charter of 'The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank should be favorably considered. These representations evidently had their effect. The House immediately reconsidered the vote by which the bill had been lost with more than two-thirds majority, and on the following morning the measure passed the third reading by a vote of 33 to 16; whereupon, the Speaker signed the same and transmitted it at once to the Senate for its concurrence. This favorable result elated *The True American* to say, in part:

We sincerely hope for the welfare and best interests of our citizens that it will succeed. There is one common sense of gratitude felt in the place toward those gentlemen who have so ably and disinterestedly advocated the bill.

On Wednesday, February 19, 1834, the bill finally passed the Senate by a vote of 9 to 4, when it immediately became law under the caption—"An act to incorporate 'The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank' at Trenton."

The first section of the act enumerated Samuel S. Stryker, William Potts, Edward S. McIlvaine, Henry W. Green, Joseph A. Yard and William A. Benjamin, with



their associates, as incorporators. The following section provided that the corporation should have a minimum capital of \$150,000 in shares of \$50 each, with the privilege of increasing the same to \$250,000; that the subscription to the capital stock should be taken under the direction of Ebenezer P. Rose, Charles Parker, Stacy A. Paxson, William Grant and Joseph Wood as Commissioners, who, after first giving twenty days notice thereof by publication in the Trenton newspapers, should open subscription books for the period of five consecutive days, and upon the completion of the work turn the subscription money received over to the directors named in the third section of the act. The first board of directors consisted of Stacy G. Potts, Edward S. McIlvaine, Samuel R. Hamilton, George Dill, Anderson Lalor, Henry W. Green, Charles Parker, Samuel McClurg, Jasper S. Scudder, John McKelway, Robert Chambers, John A. Weart and Joseph Wood, who were to retain their office until April 14, 1835. Thereafter their successors were directed to be elected annually on the second Tuesday in April, with the expressed proviso that they should "be stockholders and citizens of the United States and of this State, and of whom, at least eight together with the president shall have been residents within the townships of Trenton and Nottingham for at least one year immediately preceding their election." The fifteenth section provided that the charter should remain in force until January 1, 1855.

By arrangement of the parties in interest it was determined that the capital of the bank should be \$250,000. On March 1, 1834, the Commissioners advertised in both newspapers of Trenton that on Tuesday, April 8th, at 10 o'clock in the morning, the subscription books

would be opened for five consecutive days at the house of Joshua English, and that five dollars would be required to be paid on each share of stock subscribed. The house of Joshua English at this time was the "Washington Hotel," situated on the south-west corner of what is now known as State and Broad Streets. The local press in commenting upon this said :

Judging from the amount of banking business done in Trenton for some time past, and from the increase of business facilities and population consequent upon our local position and improvements, there can be no doubt of the flattering prospects of this institution. We understand that Charles Parker, Esq., the able and experienced Treasurer of the State, has consented to take the office of cashier and that he will be appointed. The institution under the auspices of Mr. Parker must command unlimited confidence.

The capital stock of 5,000 shares of the Bank having been fully subscribed, the Board of Directors held their first meeting on April 15, 1834, and organized by electing Jasper S. Scudder President and Charles Parker Cashier, preparatory for the arrangement of the essential details for the commencement of business.

Following the organization, the selection of a proper banking site commanded immediate attention. The four story brick building belonging to Mr. Armitage Green at No. 75 (now No. 6 North) Warren Street, which had been built in the summer of 1833 and had become vacated on April 5 of the following year, was finally accepted by the Bank with the understanding that the rental of the building would not commence until the 24th of the following September. During the interval the lower floor of the structure was fitted up for the banking room with appropriate fixtures and with the installation of a new vault at the expenditure of \$149.85.



FIRST BANKING HOUSE  
1834-1838



The second installment of five dollars upon the capital stock of the bank was officially called for from the stockholders through publication on July 31, which was 1 in at the banking house on the first Monday of the following September.

On Thursday, September 25, 1834, at 9 o'clock in morning, the doors of The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank were first thrown open to the public for the transaction of business—the official force present consisted of Jasper S. Scudder, President; Charles Parker, Cashier; Stacy A. Paxson, General Clerk; and John Dobson, Porter. In the commencement of operations on that day the records show that the Bank had on deposit with Commercial Bank of Pennsylvania the sum of \$25,000; with the Trenton Banking Company \$21,262.98; in the vault of the Bank \$3,476.02; making in the aggregate \$50,000 the paid up cash capital of the Bank.

As was the experience of the Trenton Banking Company upon the subscription of its stock in 1804, *the majority of the stock of this corporation was likewise early subscribed by Philadelphia interests.* So important was the circumstance that it became necessary for the Bank to apply to the Legislature for a supplement to the original charter, which was passed on March 4, 1835, providing that two members of the board of directors might be chosen from the State of Pennsylvania.

At the first annual election of directors on April 14, 1835, the polls were kept open from 11 A. M., until 1 P. M., when Samuel S. Stryker, Crispin Blackfan, Lewis R. Phillips, Isaac G. Farlee, James Hoy, Sr., Samuel J. Potts and Jolly Longshore were chosen new members—the last two being Pennsylvanians—and Stacy G. Potts, Samuel R. Hamilton, Anderson Lalor, Samuel McClurg

and Jasper S. Scudder were re-elected, all by the vote of 1955 shares of stock polled. On the following Thursday Jasper S. Scudder and Charles Parker were re-elected President and Cashier, respectively; when the salary of the President, in addition to his duties as accountant to the Bank as theretofore, was continued at the annual salary of \$800, as were likewise the salaries of the Cashier at \$1,000, the General Clerk at \$700, and the Porter at \$250 per annum.

The first financial statement rendered by the Bank to the Legislature on November 5, 1835, serves to illustrate the primitive manner in which it was formulated and the insignificant amount of business transacted as compared with to-day:

## DR.

Capital stock paid in.....	\$50,000 00
Notes of bank in circulation.....	75,398 00
Due depositors .....	42,236 84
Balance due for plates, fixtures, etc.....	691 43
Due banks .....	3,498 28
Discounts received unappropriated .....	664 87
	<hr/>
	\$172,489 42

## CR.

By discounted notes outstanding.....	\$123,874 72
Cash deposited in Commercial Bank, Philadelphia.....	7,214 91
Cash deposited in Phoenix Bank, New York.....	10,816 97
Other bank assets .....	1,069 69
Specie in vault.....	20,982 13
Notes of other banks.....	8,531 00
	<hr/>
	\$172,489 42

On April 14, 1836, Charles Parker, father of Governor Joel Parker, became President. One of the important

atters which came up during his brief administration as the propriety of purchasing a permanent site for the location of the Bank. The old City Tavern property, situated on the south-west corner of Warren and Second (now State) Streets, having been in the market for some time, it was, on July 25, 1836, upon motion of Stacy G. Potts, "Resolved, That the President and Cashier be authorized to procure the lot now occupied by the City Tavern, embracing the entire front on Warren Street and fifty feet on Second Street, on the most favorable terms it can be procured, not exceeding five thousand dollars."

Mr. Parker, on the 15th of the following month, presented to the Board the articles of agreement he had entered into with William Potts, John McKelway and William Grant for the purchase of the City Tavern lot—then prospectively subdivided into two lots, one facing Warren Street 22.5 feet south from the corner of Second Street, and the other extending 24 feet on Warren Street immediately below the first lot, with a combined depth of 50 feet—in conformity with previous instructions from the Board of Directors, which were approved.

On the first of September the President, Cashier and Mr. Hoy were appointed a committee to procure plans and estimates of cost: "First, of erecting a banking house on the lot 24 feet adjoining Boswell and Clark; second, of erecting the same on the corner lot; and Third, of erecting the same on the center of both lots." The committee submitted their report to the Board on the 6th of the same month, when the Directors unanimously decided to erect the banking house on the corner lot; this conclusion was induced by Joseph Witherup's offer to construct a two story brick building 22½ feet front by

50 feet in depth, with a slate roof and pressed brick walls facing both Warren and State Streets, exclusive of the vault, for \$3,500. Subsequently the Directors approved a resolution offered by Mr. Stryker, which provided that the press brick walls should be substituted by "common hard brick" to be "rough cast" from the basement up.

The offer made by Mr. Liscomb R. Titus to purchase from the Bank the lot adjoining the new banking site on the south for \$2,400 was accepted by the Directors on the 6th of January, 1837, providing he would erect thereon simultaneously with the construction of the banking house a brick building having a slate roof; the Bank agreeing to give possession as soon as the old tavern was pulled down, and the present owners made a deed to the Bank. Upon the consummation of Mr. Titus's written agreement of compliance with the terms, the title to the ground was passed to him by deed bearing date September 4, 1840.

The erection of the new banking house engaged the prompt attention of Mr. William Grant upon his election to the presidency on April 13, 1837. He together with Dr. McKelway and William Potts were owners of the City Tavern property, who were obligated to sell the ground to the Bank on the demolition of the building, which work had then just been completed. On the 24th of the same month the Directors unanimously determined to proceed with the building upon plans previously adopted by the Board, and contracted with Joseph and David Witherup to construct the edifice. At the same meeting Messrs. Grant, Parker and Dill were appointed the building committee, and Mr. George Dill was selected to procure the materials and superintend the work. The Bank paid the owners \$2,600 for its new site on May 16, after the deed, which was executed on the first of that month,



had been submitted to the Board of Directors and by them referred to their attorney for an examination of title. The appearance of the finished building is illustrated opposite page 78, except the windows of the first floor were without the iron gratings, but provided with outside shutters; and the building was also without the pitched roof. The banking house having been completed at a cost of \$4,713.65 or an aggregate of \$7,313.65 including the purchase of the lot, the site was first occupied by The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank on Monday, April 9, 1838.

In the summer and fall of 1836 the people of Trenton were experiencing prosperity "of the most gratifying character." "Substantial and elegant" buildings were going up in all parts of the city. The seven manufacturies were in full operation, while two other mills were being built. In the following spring "the business and activity of Trenton had taken a fresh start."

Early in May, 1837, coincident with the construction of the new banking house, a condition of embarrassment and distress, unparalleled in the history of our country, began to develop. Suddenly, credit perished; confidence was destroyed; business in all its branches prostrated; and the banks, from one extremity of the Union to the other, were driven to the necessity of suspending specie payments—a condition chiefly induced by the practical destruction of the Bank of the United States, and the over-abundance of the circulation of a deranged paper currency everywhere issued by the great hoard of state banks. When the New York and Philadelphia banks suspended specie payments, this institution was immediately compelled to pursue the same course on May 12, 1837.

On the fifth of the following month the President was requested by the Board of Directors to procure a written opinion from Henry W. Green and William Halsted, Esquires, whether the Bank had forfeited its charter by the suspension of specie payments, and whether it could continue discounting new paper and renew the old. Upon receipt of the opinion on the following Thursday, the Board resolved to "recommence the discounting of new notes to a limited extent."

When the Legislature convened in the fall of the same year, Governor Dickerson in his annual message expressed the view "that we have too many banks" and too much paper circulation. He recommended that no law be passed recognizing the "suspension of specie payments, or justify its continuance," but simply suggested that the banks be placed under proper restraint. On November 11, 1837, the Legislature, however, passed an act suspending all penalties or forfeitures of charters of banks failing to redeem their notes in specie until the termination of the next session; unless the majority of the banks in the cities of New York and Philadelphia should sooner resume specie payments, in which event the governor was directed to issue his proclamation requiring all banks in the state to redeem their paper currency in specie within fifteen days after its publication. The second section of the act further provided that all banks should render forthwith to the Executive answers to certain interrogatories to be propounded respecting their financial affairs. Subsequently, by a supplement passed March 1, 1838, all provisions of the organic act were indefinitely suspended, except the power invested in the governor to issue his proclamation when the banks of New York and Philadelphia resumed specie payments.

In conformity with the legislative act of November , 1837, the officers and directors of The Mechanics Bank on the 19th of the ensuing month rendered the governor a sworn detailed statement of its affairs. Aside from the cash capital of \$100,000 given in the statement, the of the material parts of the report showed that the bank only had notes of \$42,762 in circulation, and possessed \$16,124.63 in specie. *The State Gazette* on December 22, 1837, remarked:

The condition of The Mechanics Bank is now before the community, and it is proved to be worthy of great confidence.

\* \* We want no new banks in place of such an old one.

Four years later the situation of affairs in this city is illustrated in *The State Gazette* for May 25, 1841, by a humorous satire which began:

#### DREADFUL, HARD TIMES.

Yesterday I walked down, to that part of the town,  
Where people collect at the sign of the tun;  
To discuss and debate the great matters of state,  
And show how things that go wrong should be done:  
There was ragged Sam Bent, who is not worth a cent,  
There was idle Dick Lawless, and noisy Jack Grimes,  
And swaggering Jim Bell, who has nothing to sell,  
All cursing the banks, and these dreadful hard times.

The effects of the panic of 1837 had not blown over Philadelphia in the beginning of 1842, for within sixty days thereafter, aside from the banks which had failed during the crisis, six more were forced to the wall with a combined capital stock aggregating over \$45,000,000, leaving about \$6,500,000 as the banking capital of that city. So far as the Trenton banks were then concerned, rumor was circulated in Philadelphia that The

Mechanics Bank had failed, and subsequently the *Philadelphia Ledger* warned the people to be cautious in receiving the notes of the Trenton Banking Company.

The Mechanics Bank resumed the payment of specie for its notes in small amounts October 1, 1839; but, on April 20th, 1841, the Bank redeemed its notes and other obligations in hard money whenever demanded; and so continued until the 25th of the following March, when the Directors unanimously resolved to suspend specie payments "and from this time forward pay out the notes of this bank instead of foreign notes." The act of March 5, 1842, required the resumption of specie payments by all the banks in New Jersey on the 15th of the ensuing August. This Bank, however, did not wait for the enforcement of this compulsory measure, for when the Philadelphia banks resumed the payment of specie on March 18, 1842, The Mechanics Bank did likewise the following day; and thereupon announced in *The Philadelphia American* that its notes would be received at par in Philadelphia by the Bank of North America and by the Western Bank. And notice was also given in *The True American* on the 25th of March, in the same year, that this Bank exchanged the notes of the New Hope Delaware Bridge Company with specie.

The new President, Samuel Evans, was elected April 16, 1840, and on the following Monday Timothy Abbott, Jr., who had served the Bank as teller since March 26, 1838, was appointed Cashier in place of Charles Parker who declined further service.

On April 15, 1841, Mr. Evans was succeeded by Colonel Jacob Kline as President. Shortly after the resumption of specie payments in March, 1842, Colonel Kline commenced to subserve the interests of the Bank

rough a process of retrieval. In doing this the service of the teller was dispensed with, and the aggregate salaries paid were reduced to two thousand dollars annually. The accumulated loss of nearly \$25,000 in worthless promissory notes and other like securities occasioned by the late panic was sought to be wiped out by reducing the capital stock from \$125,000 to \$100,000. This programme was approved by the Board of Directors on October 24, and consummated by an act of the Legislature passed February 16, 1843. In pursuance of notice published in the Trenton papers and the *United States Gazette* of Philadelphia, by order of the Directors made February 20, the stockholders assembled in the banking house on March 14, 1843, and by a vote of 2,643 shares ratified the proposition of reducing the capital to \$100,000.

Colonel Kline having departed this life on November 15, 1844, appropriate resolutions were adopted by the Directors the following Monday; when, at the annual meeting held on the 10th of the ensuing April, George Will was elected as his successor.

The charter of the Bank was extended to January 1, 1875, by a supplement to the organic act passed by the Legislature and approved March 14, 1851.

On April 13, 1852, Timothy Abbott, Jr., was elected to the presidency, and Jonathan Fisk, who came into the bank's employ on January 6, 1845, was advanced to succeed Mr. Abbott as Cashier.

Mr. Joseph Brearley became President October 17, 1853, the day Mr. Abbott resigned his position. The advent of Mr. Brearley infused new life into the institution. He was one of Trenton's most prosperous merchants, possessing large interests in most every enterprise

which had been established in the city. To his conservatism was added a keen business vision which enabled him to take advantage of every legitimate means for the financial development of the Bank, which increased nearly five fold before the close of his administration in 1870.

The day of Mr. Brearley's election the Directors appointed Messrs. Moore, McClurg and Abbott a committee "to prepare a plan for improving the internal arrangement and structure of the banking house." On the 27th of the same month the plan presented was approved by the Directors, and the committee instructed "to carry the same into effect." Aside from the interior improvements, the exterior appearance was greatly enhanced with the substitution of the flat for the arched roof; which work was completed in February of the following year.

The "thief proof iron safe," as described in the minutes, was purchased by the Directors on May 14, 1855, "for use in the vault."

Within a year after Mr. Brearley had assumed the presidency, the business of the Bank had increased so rapidly that it was found necessary to have more capital. On November 23, 1854, the Directors ordered the Cashier to publish a notice of the Bank's intention to make application to the Legislature for an increase of capital to \$400,000. Messrs. Brearley, Ingham, Abbott, Sherman and Moore, on the 18th of the ensuing January, were appointed the legislative committee to facilitate the object "if the prospect is favorable." For some unknown reason the matter was dropped.

A similar notice of application for capital of \$500,000 was inserted in *The State Gazette* for November 20, 1855; and, on January 21 following, Messrs. Sherman, Sager, Moore, Titus and Wilkinson were designated a

committee to expedite the legislation. The committee on the following Thursday morning informed the Board of Directors their inability to give the subject the personal attention it required, when they were released and Mr. Ralph H. Shreve was retained to perform the service.

On January 23, 1856, the bill to increase the capital stock of the Bank to \$500,000 was introduced in the Senate. It was favorably considered on the 30th of the same month by a vote of 12 to 7, and immediately sent to the House of Assembly for its concurrence. The majority report of the Committee on Banks opposed the bill on February 5th, in connection with eleven other bills introduced for the incorporation of new banks, because the special privilege sought was in conflict with the policy of the general banking law established by the Legislature February 27, 1850; in consequence, the measure was defeated on March 4 by nine votes less than that required by the Constitution. On motion made the following day the House refused to reconsider the vote and the bill was lost.

The Mechanics Bank having been chartered by the Legislature in 1834, the Directors would not concede that it was compelled to reincorporate under the general banking act of 1850 to obtain its increase of capital, for if there was any force in the policy which the Committee on Banks now endeavored to impress against it, those principles were not recognized when the Legislature extended the charter of the Bank for twenty years by its supplement approved March 14, 1851. Moreover, while it was recognized by some persons that the general banking law could be successfully operated in large commercial cities of other States where the deposits were large, and whose transactions were carried on by checks, call loans and

other devices of rapid commercial business, it was generally conceded that the system was not applicable to the reversed conditions of the rural banks. And so far as the general banking act of 1850 in New Jersey was concerned, Governor William A. Newell, in his annual message to the Legislature on January 20, 1857, not only pronounced the act a failure, but gave warning that in the future banks will be established by special acts of incorporation.

In view of Governor Newell's anticipated attitude on the banking question, the Board of Directors of The Mechanics Bank decided to make another attempt to increase its capital stock; and on November 10, 1856, ordered the usual notice of intention to be inserted in the papers. On December first, Mr. Brearley together with Messrs. Richey, Sherman, Sager and Moore were named a committee to care for the Bank's interest in the Legislature.

The bill to increase the capital stock of The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank was introduced in the House of Assembly on January 15, 1857, known as Assembly Bill No. 12. Subsequently, four separate petitions of the citizens of Trenton favorable to the proposition were presented to and read before the House. On the 4th of February the minority report of the Committee on Banks was submitted to the Assembly in opposition to the so-called "monopoly." Then a series of amendments were proposed and discussed, accompanied with political log-rolling and trickery until the measure was defeated on February 25 by a vote of 33 to 22. The motion made the following morning to reconsider the vote by which the bill had been lost was tabled. The political see-saw continued until March 11th, when the motion was released and the bill passed by a vote of 38 to 19;



hereupon, it was transmitted for the action of the Senate. On March 19, 1857, the Senate favored the final passage of the bill by a majority of five votes, on which it was approved by the governor.

On March 26, 1857, Messrs. Richey, Moore and German, a committee appointed the previous Monday, submitted to the Board of Directors a plan to be recommended to the stockholders for increasing the capital stock of the Bank under the recent act authorizing it. In pursuance of notice the stockholders assembled in the banking house at the annual meeting held on Tuesday, the 14th of the following month, when they voted, according to the established rule and ratio, "that the par value of the capital stock should be restored to the sum of fifty dollars per share." There were cast 3,427 votes in the affirmative against 192 in the negative, to increase the capital stock "by the creation of five thousand additional shares of fifty dollars each."

The prosperity following the resumption of specie payments in 1842 was unprecedented and nation-wide.

It continued until August, 1857, when the first sign of financial trouble was experienced in the failure of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company in New York. To the public it was a bolt from the clear sky. The company's capital was \$2,000,000. Its failure was complete, and its business was never resumed. Here was the straw that broke the overlaid back of the entire financial and industrial structure of the United States for a while.

The railroads, especially those in the West, had been fearfully overbuilt. Improvements had been projected with extravagance. In the Western tracts recently opened for settlement towns grew into cities in a few weeks. It added to this the rise in commodity prices and the conse-

quent speculation in them, the cause is plain for the crash of the industrial fabric that came in 1857, that engulfed in the ruin wrought thousands of firms throughout every section of the country.

The banks of the cities of New York and Philadelphia felt the blow as they never have felt a blow, before or since. "What had merely been termed a crisis," declared one newspaper, "has become paralysis."

When the Bank received telegraphic advice of the suspension of the Philadelphia banks on Friday afternoon, September 25, 1857, the Directors held a special meeting that evening in the banking house to determine what course they should pursue to conserve its interests. As a result Messrs. Richey and Sherman and the Cashier were delegated to consult a similar committee of The Trenton Banking Company and report the result of the conference. At another meeting of the Board held on the following—Saturday—night, the committee reported "that it had been deemed advisable to continue specie payments;" whereupon, Imlah Moore and Jonathan Fisk were requested to proceed to New York immediately to "make arrangements to secure the necessary means to carry us safely through."

The suspension of the Philadelphia banks was the principal topic of conversation of the people on the streets of Trenton early Saturday morning, September 26. A few persons became frightened, and for an hour or two the demand for specie from the Bank became pretty constant. It was promptly met, and confidence was restored before noon after a comparatively small amount of hard money had been withdrawn. In reciting these circumstances in *The State Gazette* on September 28 and 29, 1857, the editor further said:

The Mechanics Bank has not engaged in speculation, and its stability and solvency is beyond question. No one acquainted with its condition expressed the slightest alarm or the least diminution of confidence. The bank is strong. It would require a much greater panic than any we have yet experienced to get up a run upon such an institution.

When Mr. Moore and Mr. Fisk returned from New York, they reported to the Board of Directors on Monday morning, September 26th, that the Bank of the Commonwealth had agreed to extend all the accommodation this Bank required "provided the note of the directors was executed and delivered to them for the sum of fifty thousand dollars as collateral security for any indebtedness of this bank to them, which was agreed to."

The height of the panic reached New York on Tuesday, the 13th of October. On that day, after four and a half million of specie had been withdrawn, the doors of no less than eighteen banks were closed. In the evening, after a protracted meeting of the officers of the solvent banks, it was decided that specie payments would have to be suspended.

Upon telegraphic receipt of the action of the New York banks, this institution on October 14th was compelled to yield to the pressure and suspend specie payments. The *State Gazette* again said, on the following day:

The statement published last week shows that The Mechanics Bank is abundantly strong, and it would not have been obliged to suspend had it not been for the action of the New York banks. There was no run upon it; its suspension created no excitement; and its business will be continued as heretofore. The Mechanics Bank certainly deserves great credit for the manner in which it has stood up in this season of distress, and it can boast truly that it has been among the last to yield and cease the resumption of its issues in specie.

By the 10th of November business generally began to improve everywhere. Three days later the Philadelphia papers announced that the notes of The Mechanics Bank were received by all the banks in that city. When the associated banks in New York City resumed the payment of specie on December 12, 1857, this Bank immediately pursued the same course.

The Hon. Samuel D. Ingham, who had been actively associated with the directorate in the affairs of The Mechanics Bank since April 9, 1850, was now, on June 30, 1859, approaching his eightieth year in feeble health. On that day, by reason of his infirmities, he reluctantly tendered his resignation to the Board because of the "improbability that he would be able to resume his seat." Upon his earnest solicitation it was accepted, but in compliment to him the Board of Directors immediately elected Dr. John Howard Ingham a director to succeed his father.

Mr. Ingham, in early life, represented the State of Pennsylvania for many terms in the National Congress at Washington. When Andrew Jackson was inaugurated President of the United States in 1829, Mr. Ingham became his Secretary of the Treasury, which position he held until 1831. On his removal to Trenton his interest in finance was illustrated in an article he wrote entitled "*Observations on the Currency of the United States.*" At the request of Timothy Abbott and Jonathan Fisk, on the insistence of the Board of Directors of this Bank to pay half of the cost of printing, Mr. Ingham published his sketch in 1851; and the only copy now known to exist may be found in The Boston Athenaeum. He led a retired life while in this city, being identified with all public and charitable affairs.

In the fall of 1860, while the commercial condition

of the country was prosperous, there began another financial upheaval owing to the alarm which affected our political future by the unwise and aggressive policy which the people of the Southern States were exercising against a large portion of the Union. This immediately startled the money and stock markets. The banks in Baltimore, and those throughout the South and Southwest, almost simultaneously suspended. The Philadelphia banks, as a precautionary measure, likewise suspended specie on Thursday afternoon, November 22, 1860.

To protect its interests from the unscrupulous brokers of gathering up the notes of this Bank and forwarding them here for redemption, The Mechanics Bank on November 23 suspended specie payments. *The State Gazette* on the following day commented on this action by saying:

The business men of this city generally approve of the course taken by The Mechanics Bank; and so entire is the confidence felt in it, that the announcement of its suspension on the streets yesterday scarcely produced a ruffle. There is no safer banking institution in the United States, having an abundance of means to meet all its liabilities, and being under the management of careful, prudent and honest men. How long the suspension will continue no one can tell, but the probabilities are that it will only be of short duration.

As a matter of fact the banks of New Jersey did not thereafter resume specie payments until the general resumption on January 1, 1879. The penalties of the non-redemption in specie of bank notes were suspended for one year by a legislative act approved March 24, 1862; which act was supplemented on March 6th of the following year, suspending the penalties indefinitely.

On April 12, 1864, the Board of Directors approved a new by-law offered by Mr. Abbott, empowering the

Board to appoint an assistant-cashier whenever it should be justified. Two days later Mr. Charles Whitehead, an employee of the Bank since January 1, 1854, was appointed to fill the position.

About noon on Monday, April 3, 1865, "The Glorious News of the fall of Petersburg and Richmond" was received in Trenton. The Union League flung the first flag to the breeze, followed shortly by numerous others. About three o'clock the "Good Will" boys fired a salute of 100 guns; and later in the day, a National salute was fired at the State Arsenal.

In response to an appeal of a committee of citizens, that all houses should be illuminated in honor of our victories on the evening of the 6th between the hours of 7.30 and 9 o'clock, the Board of Directors resolved at their meeting on the morning of that day "That we join in the celebration by having the Banking House suitably illuminated." *The State Gazette* on the next morning, April 7, 1865, in part, said :

The illumination and celebration in this city last evening, in honor of the recent victories over our enemies, was one of the most brilliant and successful affairs of the kind ever witnessed here. \* \* \* The number of buildings illuminated, both public and private, were so numerous that it is impossible for us to mention them all. \* \* \* *The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank made a very handsome appearance.*

The proclamation of the President of the United States of April 29, promulgated in Governor Joel Parker's proclamation on May 22, 1865, appointing June 1 as a day of Humiliation and Mourning on account of the death of the late President Lincoln, the Bank remained closed.

President Brearley and the Directors of The

Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank thought favorably of the opportunity to extend their activities which was created by the passage of the National Currency Act of 1864. The signatures of stockholders representing more than two-thirds of the capital stock of \$350,000 having been obtained favorable to the conversion, the Directors, on May 15, 1865, announced that it was expedient to change the organization from the State to the National system, to be known as "The Mechanics National Bank."

At a special meeting of the Directors held on June 1, 1865, the "Authority for Conversion," "Articles of Association" and "Organization Certificate" were duly executed and forwarded to the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington.

The list of the stockholders on the conversion makes reminiscent reading. Many of the men whom it brings to remembrance were not only among the financial, manufacturing and mercantile leaders of their day, but they founded or belonged to families that have remained representative of the best to the present time.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
AMY ANN ABBOTT.....	Trenton, N. J.....	35
ANN ELIZA ABBOTT.....	do .....	3
ANN ELIZA ABBOTT, <i>in Trust</i> .....	do .....	2
CATHERINE M. ABBOTT.....	do .....	5
GEORGE B. ABBOTT.....	Nashville, Tenn.....	11
SUSAN C. ABBOTT.....	Trenton, N. J.....	32
TIMOTHY ABBOTT.....	do .....	3
JAMES S. AITKIN.....	do .....	15
CHARLES C. ANDERSON.....	do .....	1
HEZEKIAH A. ANDERSON.....	do .....	6
JAMES ANDERSON.....	do .....	40
JOHN A. ANDERSON.....	Lambertville, N. J.....	18
JOHN H. ANDERSON.....	do .....	5
JAMES F. ARMSTRONG.....	Trenton, N. J.....	13

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
SARAH ARMSTRONG.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	2
SUSAN ARMSTRONG.....	Trenton, N. J.....	9
DANIEL BAKER.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	24
JOHN C. BAKER, <i>Exr.</i> .....	do.....	4
EDWARD BALDERSTON.....	Bucks County, Pa.....	4
JOHN B. BALDERSTON.....	do.....	21
JOHN RHEA BARTON.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	127
MERCER BEASLEY.....	Trenton, N. J.....	24
CATHERINE L. BEATTY.....	do.....	20
JOHN J. BEATTY.....	Allentown, N. J.....	11
MARY E. BEATTY.....	Trenton, N. J.....	20
MARY E. BEATTY, <i>Trustee</i> .....	do.....	1
MARY E. R. BELVILLE.....	do.....	1
ALEXANDER BENSON.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	26
JOSEPH H. BLACKFAN.....	Washington, D. C.....	68
OGDEN W. BLACKFAN.....	Trenton, N. J.....	30
OGDEN W. BLACKFAN, <i>Exr.</i> .....	do.....	2
JOSEPH G. BREARLEY.....	do.....	126
STACY BROWN.....	Brownsburg, Pa.....	46
BUCKS COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONSHIP..	Bucks County, Pa.....	70
HORACE A. BUTTOLPH.....	Trenton, N. J.....	23
ANN CALLIS.....	do.....	3
WILLIAM CALLIS.....	do.....	4
HENRY F. CARRIEL.....	do.....	11
MARY C. CARRIEL.....	do.....	20
JOHN S. CHAMBERS.....	do.....	36
WILLIAM R. CLAPP.....	do.....	50
ARTHUR COLLINS.....	Morrisville, Pa.....	10
JOHN S. COMFORT.....	do.....	70
SARAH E. CONARD.....	Trenton, N. J.....	4
NANCY CONVERY.....	do.....	3
ELIAS COOK.....	do.....	2
JOHN COOPER, JR.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	20
LEHMAN A. COOPER.....	do.....	20
HANNAH CORVELL.....	Lambertville, N. J.....	6
EDWARD CROSSLAND.....	Waterbury, Conn.....	14
ESTHER H. CROZER.....	Trenton, N. J.....	6
JAMES M. DAVIS.....	do.....	24



NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
HIRAM DEATS.....	Stockton, N. J.....	56
ROBERT R. DEPUY.....	Stroudsburg, Pa.....	37
CHARLES H. DEXTER, <i>Trustee</i> .....	Windsor Locks, Conn....	50
ELIZABETH R. DILL.....	Trenton, N. J.....	78
GEORGE DILL.....	do .....	71
JOHN R. DILL.....	do .....	35
HARRIET C. DOLON.....	Mauch Chunk, Pa.....	10
JANE DRUMMOND.....	Trenton, N. J.....	2
JACOB DUNTON.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	2
MARY DUNTON.....	do .....	5
RICHARD ELIAS ELY.....	New Hope, Pa.....	15
HANNAH S. EMLEY.....	Bordentown, N. J.....	10
EDWARD W. EVANS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	24
SAMUEL EVANS.....	do .....	303
JAMES EWING.....	do .....	47
JOSEPH EXTON.....	Clinton, N. J.....	14
BENJAMIN FISH.....	Trenton, N. J.....	14
JONATHAN FISK.....	do .....	120
JOHN FITZPATRICK.....	do .....	40
WILLIAM M. FORCE.....	Jersey City, N. J.....	50
DANIEL P. FORST.....	Trenton, N. J.....	60
JACOB R. FREESE.....	do .....	40
EZRA B. FULLER.....	do .....	63
BENNINGTON GILL.....	Allentown, N. J.....	30
MARY E. GILL.....	do .....	16
CALEB S. GREEN.....	Trenton, N. J.....	140
HENRY W. GREEN, <i>Trustee</i> .....	do .....	8
NATHAN HAINES, <i>son of Wm.</i> .....	Maryland .....	25
REUBEN HAINES.....	do .....	25
GEORGE HALE.....	Pennington, N. J.....	25
MARY LAY HALE.....	do .....	12
REBECCA K. HALL.....	Salem, N. J.....	12
SAMUEL M. HAMILL.....	Lawrenceville, N. J.....	40
EDITH E. HEWLINGS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	20
EMILY C. HOLMES.....	Allentown, N. J.....	12
JOSEPH H. HOUGH.....	Trenton, N. J.....	13
ELVIRA HOWELL.....	do .....	73
ESICK HOWELL.....	Fallsington, Pa.....	20

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
ELIZA JANE HUNT.....	Trenton, N. J.....	2
JOHN P. HUTCHINSON.....	Bordentown, N. J.....	20
LETITIA HUTCHINSON.....	Trenton, N. J.....	13
MAHLON HUTCHINSON.....	Bordentown, N. J.....	25
ROBERT C. HUTCHINSON.....	Sand Hills, N. J.....	50
JOHN H. INGHAM.....	Salem, N. J.....	248
JONATHAN INGHAM.....	do .....	220
WILLIAM A. INGHAM.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	260
WILLIAM A. INGHAM, <i>in trust for</i> <i>E. R. Hate</i> .....	do .....	237
WILLIAM A. INGHAM, <i>in trust for</i> <i>M. L. Emerson</i> .....	do .....	220
ALPHONSO C. IRELAND.....	do .....	5
MATTHEW C. JENKINS.....	do .....	100
ANNA JOHNSON.....	Trenton, N. J.....	8
CLEMENS JONES.....	do .....	37
PATRICK KELLY.....	do .....	5
WILLIAM KERWOOD.....	do .....	20
ELIZABETH KINSMAN.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	32
JACOB KLINE, <i>Exr</i> .....	Pluckamin, N. J.....	5
LYDIA KLINE.....	do .....	30
ISAAC W. LANNING, <i>Trustee</i> .....	Trenton, N. J.....	6
GILBERT S. LAWRIE.....	Ameytown, N. J.....	70
ASA LIPPINCOTT.....	Cinnaminson, N. J.....	25
LYDIA LIPPINCOTT.....	do .....	25
ELIZA M. MAYNARD.....	Trenton, N. J.....	50
MARY McCAULY.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	20
HANNAH MIDDLETON.....	Crosswicks, N. J.....	42
CHARLES MOORE.....	Trenton, N. J.....	110
IMLAH MOORE.....	do .....	110
IMLAH MOORE, <i>Trustee</i> .....	do .....	8
SARAH MOORE.....	Ewing, N. J.....	3
ALFRED MUIRHEID.....	do .....	7
JOHN NAPTON.....	Trenton, N. J.....	4
WILLIAM NAPTON.....	do .....	20
MARY C. NEWELL.....	Allentown, N. J.....	31
WILLIAM J. OWENS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	25
SAMUEL R. PACKER.....	do .....	3

## THE MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK.

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NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
HELEN T. F. PAUL.....	Trenton, N. J.....	5
FRANCES M. PEARSON.....	do .....	2
WILLIAM A. PIERCE.....	Kingston, N. J.....	42
WILLIAM H. POTTS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	1
PHILETUS S. POWERS.....	do .....	6
JOSEPH F. RANDOLPH.....	Jersey City, N. J.....	29
JOHN M. READ.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	87
MARY E. READING.....	Trenton, N. J.....	6
SARAH A. READING.....	do .....	5
LEWIS A. REEDER.....	Lawrenceville, N. J.....	6
JAMES A. REID.....	Black Mills, N. J.....	49
JOSEPH RICE.....	Trenton, N. J.....	10
AUGUSTUS G. RICHEY.....	do .....	100
JOHN J. RIDGWAY.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	93
ELIZABETH V. RISTON.....	New York City, N. Y....	3
JOHN A. RISTON.....	do .....	10
EDMUND ROBERTS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	24
ELIZABETH ROBERTS.....	Moorestown, N. J.....	7
LYDIA ROBERTS.....	do .....	6
NATHANIEL H. ROBERTS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	10
SAMUEL ROBERTS.....	do .....	24
SUSAN ROBERTS.....	Moorestown, N. J.....	7
JOHN A. ROEBLING.....	Trenton, N. J.....	200
N. BEAKS ROSSELL.....	do .....	30
MARTHA RUSH.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	2
CALEB SAGER.....	Trenton, N. J.....	9
MARY J. SAGER.....	do .....	2
HENDERSON G. SCUDDER.....	do .....	7
MORGAN SCUDDER.....	Ewing Township, N. J....	10
DAVID SHAW.....	Trenton, N. J.....	13
OLIVIA SHERMAN.....	do .....	26
MARVEL SHOVE .....	do .....	47
ELIZA SHREVE.....	do .....	10
PHEBE ANN SHREVE.....	do .....	18
REBECCA K. SINNICKSON.....	Salem, N. J.....	20
JOHN K. SMITH.....	Trenton, N. J.....	15
JULIA ANN SMITH.....	Baltimore, Md.....	60
ADELAIDE R. STEVENSON.....	Trenton, N. J.....	1

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	NO. SHARES.
EDWARD H. STOKES.....	Trenton, N. J.....	20
AMELIA P. STRYKER.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	138
ELIZABETH O. STRYKER.....	do .....	50
JAMES D. STRYKER.....	Lambertville, N. J.....	140
CHARLES SWAN.....	Trenton, N. J.,.....	34
MARY TABER.....	do .....	6
CAROLINE M. TATE.....	do .....	20
WILLIAM S. THOMAS.....	Cinnaminson, N. J.....	25
BENJAMIN W. TITUS.....	Trenton, N. J.....	9
BENJAMIN W. TITUS, <i>Trustee</i> .....	do .....	17
ELIZABETH TITUS.....	do .....	16
AARON VAN SICKLE.....	Flemington, N. J.....	60
MARIA L. VOORHEES.....	Trenton, N. J.....	14
JOHN P. VROOM.....	do .....	60
PETER D. VROOM.....	do .....	70
JOSEPH WALN.....	Burlington County, N. J..	35
EMILY H. E. WATKINS.....	Washington, D. C.....	1
ROBERT WHITAKER.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	100
WILLIAM WHITE .....	Trenton, N. J.....	43
CHARLES WHITEHEAD.....	do .....	15
FREDERICK R. WILKINSON.....	do .....	78
OGDEN D. WILKINSON.....	do .....	125
SAMUEL K. WILSON.....	do .....	34
SARAH W. WILSON.....	do .....	24

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## PART III

### THE MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK

The new charter was secured and dated Saturday, July 1, 1865, on which date The Mechanics Bank commenced operations under the National Currency Act.

More and more attention was constantly being directed to the extraordinary success of the Bank. On July 3, 1865, *The True American* commented upon its new adventure, as follows:

The Mechanics & Manufacturers Bank passed under the National Banking Law on Saturday, July 1, and will hereafter be known as The Mechanics National Bank. This Bank has obtained in this community a high reputation as a safe and prudently managed institution. Its officers are gentlemen of the first integrity—enjoying a large degree the confidence of the community.

*The State Gazette*, on July 4, 1865, had this to say:

The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank of this city has organized under the National Banking Law as The Mechanics National Bank. The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank was established over thirty years ago, and during the whole period of its existence has been an admirably managed institution; encouraging every proper local enterprise, and by its judicious liberality adding to the prosperity of the city. Under its new organization we trust it may meet with success.

The special order of business before the Board of Directors on January 15, 1866, was the increase of the capital stock of the Bank from \$350,000 to \$500,000. This proposition was agreed to, and three thousand additional shares of stock were ordered to issue and the money converted to the Bank on the 10th of the following April.

Since that date the paid-up capital has remained half a million of dollars.

Mr. Jonathan Fisk, who had been with the institution as teller and cashier for more than twenty-two years, by reason of his continued ill health was constrained to resign his position on May 6, 1867. He was an uncle of the senior member of the famous banking firm of Fisk & Hatch in New York. In 1827 he left his native State of Vermont to enter Princeton College, but three years later his delicate health required him to abandon his studies. He then retired to Allentown, in this State, and entered the mercantile business with Mr. R. M. Stout, under the firm name of Stout & Fisk. When the firm dissolved on June 8, 1833, he continued the business for a time. On January 1, 1838, he became Cashier of the banking department of the New Hope Delaware Bridge Company, where he remained until he came to this Bank on the 6th of January, 1845. His singleness of purpose, together with his courtesy toward all men, furnished a striking illustration of the truth that it is possible for a Christian gentleman to carry his ideals of Christianity with him in his business. Such representative traits suggested his selection as ruling elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, to which service he was ordained January 16, 1846. These and the noble standards of honesty and faithfulness in Mr. Fisk to the Bank prompted the Directors to create the office of Vice-President for him on the day of his resignation as Cashier, which compliment he accepted with the condition that he should receive no remuneration.

The *Hoodoo Day* of The Mechanics Bank was Saturday, July 17, 1869, when the officers and clerical force present in the banking room had no funds or records to

transact business. Before the hour of nine arrived in the morning strenuous efforts had been made to unfasten the refractory lock—Sargent's Magnetic—of the inner vault door, without avail. Their embarrassment was further increased when the customers appeared, which necessitated the officers of the Bank to go out among the other banking institutions of the city to borrow money to tide them over for the day. Upon telegraphic request to Watson & Son, safe manufacturers in Philadelphia, an expert by the name of Rogers came up, who, within a few hours, was followed by another bearing the name of Conrad. These two men labored unsuccessfully until the afternoon of the following day, when they were compelled to break through the lock with a sledge hammer, to find a broken screw in it which had caused all the trouble. Just before this was accomplished, however, Aaron Carlisle, a mason in this city, had effected an entrance by cutting through the ceiling of the vault, which rendered no service in removing the impediment.

At the annual meeting of the Directors on January 11, 1870, Mr. Joseph G. Brearley, who had been President since 1853, and who had conducted the institution in its insignificance through the vicissitudes of life to one of wealth and prominence in the National banking system, positively declined further service by reason of the precarious condition of his health. As early as February 21, 1867, he announced to the Board his intention of vacating the presidency on the first of the following April, to afford it an opportunity to select his successor. True to his word, he sent in his written resignation on March 18th, when the Directors unanimously resolved "That the President be requested not to press the acceptance of his resignation." Generous as Mr. Brearley was

to his friends, he acquiesced; but on the 27th of the following January, he intimated to the Board a desire, "in consequence of the state of his health, to be relieved partially of some of the duties and that his salary be reduced accordingly," which was agreed to.

Mr. Timothy Abbott, who resigned the presidency in the fall of 1853 to become Vice-President of The Trenton Iron Company, was re-elected President of the Bank in succession to Mr. Brearley on January 11, 1870.

On October 31, 1870, the death of the Cashier, Mr. William Howe, was announced at the Board meeting, which occurred that morning at half-past seven o'clock from the lingering disease of consumption. Mr. Howe was born in Lawrenceville, N. J., February 27, 1828. He was employed by the Bank April 6, 1853; advanced Assistant-Cashier May 21, 1866; and elected Cashier on the 6th of May in the following year. He was unmarried; incorruptibly honest; and as a scholar with cultivated refinement and taste, he had few equals. In recognition of his valued services to this institution the usual resolutions of condolence were adopted by the Directors on the Thursday following his death, copies of which were transmitted to his family and also published the same day in the Trenton newspapers. In the afternoon at two o'clock the funeral was attended by the Directors in a body from the residence of his father, Roswell Howe, on West State Street.

The three story brick residence of John O. Raum, adjoining the banking site on the west, with a frontage of 21.8 feet on State Street by 46.5 feet in depth, was purchased by the Bank at the assignee's sale on February 28, 1872, for \$11,335. The deed from James Buchanan, assignee, dated April 1, 1872, was delivered to the Bank,



as was another for the same property executed by Mr. Raum and wife on June 6 of the same year. Within a week after the first deed was delivered the first floor of the Raum house was furnished for the Directors' use.

In the great panic occurring in September, 1873, when large banks toppled down so generally and smaller ones following so rapidly, The Mechanics Bank with abundant resources promptly met all its obligations, as it subsequently did in every crisis or financial stringency which ensued to the present time.

Mr. Timothy Abbott, who had been confined to his house at 471 Bellvue Avenue from a complication of diseases, was suddenly stricken with heart failure and expired at 10.20 A. M., on Monday, November 20, 1882. This intelligence reached the Board room as the Directors were about adjourning; whereupon, Daniel P. Forst was immediately elected Vice-President of the Bank. On the following Thursday morning the Directors adopted resolutions expressing the sterling qualities of the deceased President, and in the afternoon were present at his funeral.

On the ninth day of the year 1883, The Mechanics Bank elected as President a man who had already been a factor in its growth near nineteen years in the person of Mr. Daniel P. Forst.

In assuming his new relations Mr. Forst had long recognized that the banking house was inadequate to properly care for its increased business. The external and internal appearance of the building was antiquated; the vault primitive and too small; and the counting-room unsuitable to the times. He communicated these views to the real estate committee, and requested it to prepare and submit plans to remedy the conditions. When these

had been formulated they were specially considered and approved by the Board at its meeting March 22, 1883.

In April the work commenced by stripping off the layer of "rough cast" from the entire front walls, which were then painted in imitation brick. Around the entire building between the first and second stories, exclusive of the old Raum house, the walls were decorated with a rock-ribbed panel about two feet wide having inserted borders of buff and red-maroon tile. In Warren Street the front door was walled up, and the old stone steps, approachable either from the north or south, were removed. The new entrance was established at the corner; arched, built of brown stone, and supported by a polished granite shaft in the center. It was approached by five stone steps leading to an elegant tiled vestibule, and thence to heavy polished walnut doors paneled with plate glass. A new steel vault having an interior measurement of 14 by 10 feet, with the latest improved burglar proof doors and combination locks, was relocated at the west end of the building. The interior on the main floor of the structure was replastered and decorated. New floors finished in oil substituted the old. All the old furniture was replaced with new made from mahogany, walnut and glass. The improvements were completed on October 1, 1883, except the Directors' quarters, which were not finished until the following December, at a total cost of \$8,456.61.

On September 11, 1884, through plans submitted by the Butler Safe Company of New York, a safe deposit vault was constructed on top of the main vault of the Bank.

The sixth article of the "Articles of Association" was amended by the Directors on February 16, 1885, in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress ap-



SECOND BANKING HOUSE  
1838-1883



SECOND BANKING HOUSE  
Improved  
1883-1894



proved July 12, 1882, extending the Bank's corporate existence until May 29, 1905; which proceeding was subsequently ratified by the Comptroller of the Currency.

President Forst died in his Clinton Avenue residence on Monday afternoon, May 9, 1887, from an acute attack of neuralgia of the heart. On the previous Saturday he had been at the Bank attending to business until noon, when, feeling somewhat indisposed, he concluded to go home and spend the remainder of the inclement day. Funeral services were held the following Thursday afternoon. The Board of Directors were represented in this last tribute of respect to one who had been so intimately associated with them.

The eleventh President of The Mechanics Bank was Mr. John Moses, who was elected May 16, 1887, vice Mr. Forst, deceased.

As early as February 19, 1866, the Directors decided to make application to the authorities in Washington to have the Bank selected as a government depository, but for unknown reasons the matter was dropped. On the 9th of January, 1888, the subject was renewed, when the Board requested Harvey Fisk & Sons in New York to purchase a half million dollars of United States bonds to carry out the project; and on the 12th of the same month formal application was made to Washington to have The Mechanics Bank designated a National Depository. This was approved by the Secretary of the Treasury on the following day; and shortly thereafter \$547,000 of government funds were deposited with the Bank. On the 21st of January in the ensuing year, however, the Bank relinquished the depository voluntarily as an undesirable adventure.

On May 1, 1888, owing to illness, Mr. Moses was

obliged to seek a three months' rest and recreation on the Pacific coast. In the fall of the following year he spent a few weeks in Europe to recuperate a declining health. And on the 27th of March, 1890, Mr. Moses, as he was about leaving again for Europe by the advice of his physicians, expressed a desire to the Board of being entirely relieved from the cares of the presidency of the Bank, and upon his insistence his resignation was accepted with expressions of regret.

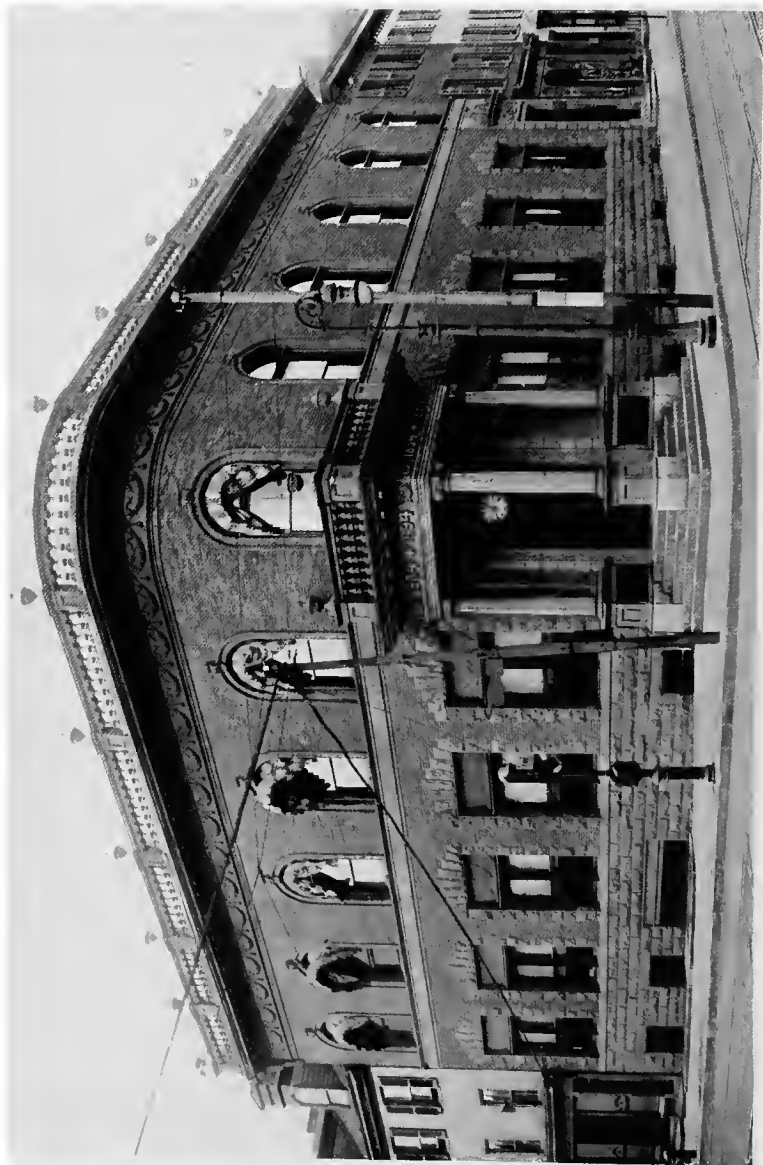
Mr. Sering P. Dunham was elected President of the Bank on April 7, 1890. In the fall of the same year he, in connection with other members of a special committee, submitted to the Directors a system for balancing daily all the accounts kept in the general ledger, which was approved on the 13th of November.

In effecting a prospective plan for the future enlargement of the banking house, the three story brick premises adjoining it on the south, known as No. 3 South Warren Street, was purchased by the Bank from Mrs. Margaret P. James, et al., by deed executed November 23, 1891.

A serious loss was sustained by The Mechanics Bank in the death of the Hon. Augustus G. Richey, which occurred in Trenton on Monday morning, January 15, 1894, in the 75th year of his age. To his wisdom and good judgment the successful progress of the Bank was largely attributed. He had been its Vice-President since 1889; its Attorney near thirty-seven years; and when he was stricken he was serving his thirty-eighth consecutive term on the directorate—a period longer than that of any other member, before or since.

Mr. Richey graduated from Lafayette College in 1840. He then studied law, and subsequently reached





PRESENT BANKING HOUSE



the pinnacle of his profession. In politics he was a Republican, and served in the New Jersey Senate from 1866 to 1868. He was officially identified with the Trenton Saving Fund Society, and a director in many other corporations. In all his personal relations of life Mr. Richey exemplified the noble standards of honesty, faithfulness and courtesy that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. At the time of his death he had for many years been a ruling elder of the Prospect Street Presbyterian Church. The funeral services were held at noon on January 18th from his residence in West State Street.

On February 1, 1894, the Board of Directors of The Mechanics Bank decided to enlarge and build another banking house on plans submitted by William A. Poland, architect; placing the general supervision of the work under the control of the real estate committee, consisting of Messrs Roebing, Rice, Moses, Hancock and Kelsey. This committee on April 2 contracted with Herring, Hall, Marvin Company to build the new safe deposit vaults; and on the 13th of the following August, the Directors accepted the proposals of W. Schwarzwailder & Co., of New York, to install the new fixtures and other furnishings upon the completion of the building.

In consequence of these improvements the Bank removed to temporary quarters in the building of Scudder & Dunham at 26 East State Street on Wednesday afternoon, May 30, 1894. When the new structure was completed, it removed back to its permanent site and resumed business on Monday, January 28, 1895.

The description of the new banking house is well described by Mr. Lee in his History of Trenton, in the following language:

The style of the architecture is Italian renaissance. It is two stories high, with a frontage of seventy-two feet on West State Street and forty-eight on South Warren. The outside height is forty-two feet and the height of the first story is eighteen feet.

The exterior is of rock-faced brick, brown stone trimming, and surmounted by a metal cornice and balustrade. Whilst the exterior of the building is a crowning ornament to city architecture, the interior is said to be unequaled in the State of New Jersey. The wainscoting is of a mottled colored marble from Africa, both odd and rare, and is trimmed with yellow Nubian marble. The division between the corridors and the bank proper is of the same material; the grill work above and all other metal work is of oxidized silver. The woodwork is entirely of mahogany. The four limestone arches capping the polished granite columns near the rear end of the bank are carved. The floor is of Mosaic. Three colors of marble are used—red antique, a French marble; Glens Falls, a black, and sienna, a light colored. Across the entrance the name of the bank is shown in the floor, the letters being in the black marble. The President's room is on the lower Warren street corner, and adjoining it toward the west end the Cashier's room. The Directors' room is beyond it on the south side of the building and lighted from the skylight. At the far end of the State street corridor a railing divides an apartment for the use of the women customers of the bank.

White marble steps lead down to the basement, where is situated the safe deposit vault. It is said to be as nearly burglar-proof as can be made, and was constructed regardless of cost. It is fitted with coupon stalls for the convenience of customers. The bank already has in its custody three hundred safe deposit boxes, and will have room for several times that many.

The second floor of the building is in keeping with the banking department. A wide flight of steps leads to a handsome hallway, where are located eight offices in suites. These offices are decorated in blue, with quartered oak woodwork, electrically lighted, heated by hot water and perfect in all appointments. They are the finest offices of their type in the State.

After an administration characterized by conservatism and a broad intelligence in the handling of its affairs, Mr. Sering P. Dunham tendered his resignation both as



PRESENT BANKING ROOM  
East View



PRESENT BANKING ROOM  
West View

President and Director, which was accepted by a letter of regret from the Directors on January 9, 1899.

Mr. William M. Lanning was chosen Mr. Dunham's successor on January 12, 1899. Shortly after he assumed the office of President, Mr. Lanning observed that the increased duties seriously interfered with his extensive legal practice, and for that reason resigned on the 27th of the following April. During his regime, however, the United States District Court of New Jersey designated the Bank, on the 23d of January, a depository for money of bankrupt estates.

On April 27, 1899, for the first time in the history of The Mechanics Bank, it secured in the election of Edward C. Stokes the services of a President who was essentially a trained banker. Mr. Stokes' bachelor life, his dislike for ostentation, and his unrelenting attention to the affairs of the Bank soon caused him to be designated a man of unusually methodical methods. It was, however, this strict adherence to business, combined with a rare judgment and sagacity in financial affairs, that enabled him to witness the growth of the institution to such a point of resources and power as could hardly have been conceived at the time of his selection. The important events of the years 1890 to 1908 had elevated Governor Stokes to that position popularly styled "a public man;" for in the interval he had served the State of New Jersey in the House of Assembly; the Senate—its President in 1895; Clerk of the Court of Chancery; and who completed his three year term as Governor in 1908. As a shrewd careful banker it is now generally conceded in New Jersey that Governor Stokes has few equals; as a politician and a public speaker, which is merely a diver-

sion, he has no competitor in either of the great political parties of the State.

The practice heretofore in vogue of accepting the personal bonds of private individuals for the faithful performance of duty by the Bank's officials and employees was substituted, by order of the Directors made February 1, 1900, by bonds of recognized bonding insurance companies.

The venerable Hon. Henry C. Kelsey, who became a Director in this institution in 1888, its Vice-President in 1894, and who is well-known for his munificent philanthropy, was given the "Bon Voyage" by all the officers and directors at the Board meeting June 17, 1901, on his initial trip to Europe the following day. Thereafter, until the summer of 1915 when the World's War was in full operation, Mr. Kelsey continued his annual trips to various European countries for rest and recreation, and especially to purchase rare objects of art in pottery, bric-a-brac and other ware, which must ever remain as evidences of refined taste and of artistic appreciation.

In recognition of the final obsequies of the late President of the United States, William McKinley, the Bank remained closed on Thursday, September 19, 1901.

The property No. 5 South Warren Street, adjoining the banking house on the south, was purchased by the Bank from Mrs. Emmaline M. Snook by her deed dated June 2, 1903.

On December 7, 1903, the Cashier, William W. Stelle, by reason of ill health and advancing years, resigned his position to take effect December 31, of the same year. He was succeeded on the latter date by the promotion of Joseph R. Sweeny, who had been Assistant-

Cashier since January 12, 1888, and who came into the Bank's service on November 15, 1870.

The "Articles of Association," by consent of the stockholders, were amended by a resolution of the Directors on March 13, 1905, to extend the Bank's corporate existence to May 29, 1925. This succession was officially sanctioned by the Comptroller of the Currency on May 29, 1905.

The new banking house that in 1894 had seemed ample for all future growth had become too cramped and inconvenient for the satisfactory conduct of its increased business. In consequence the Board decided, on February 25, 1907, to extend the banking house twenty feet south on Warren Street in conformity with the architecture of the main building, upon the property lately purchased from the Snook estate. On the 9th of the following May, on the recommendation of Henry C. Kelsey, chairman of the building committee, the contract for the extension was awarded by the Directors to Mr. Charles W. Kafer and to Burton & Burton. In the fall of the same year the work was completed.

On July 1, 1908, the Bankers Association in Trenton recommended to the boards of the respective banks that no interest be allowed on active accounts unless the daily balance exceeded one thousand dollars. This initiative proposition was the ultimate solution of a troublesome question which the banks for years had failed to harmonize. The Mechanics Bank always maintained the principle that every patron should be treated alike without discrimination, and for this reason ratified the proposition on the 9th of the same month. When the minimum balance was reduced to five hundred dollars, it promptly agreed to that. And on the 27th of the following month

the Directors of the Bank ordered that, beginning with September 1, 1908, the annual rate of interest to be paid on active accounts should be one and one-half per cent. on amounts in excess of an average daily balance of five hundred dollars, and three per cent. on inactive accounts of any amount, both to be computed and credited on the 15th day of January and July of each year. Since this system has been inaugurated the Bank has paid to its customers the total sum of \$1,182,730.00 as follows:

Active Accounts.	Year.	Inactive Accounts.
\$45,524.77	1908	\$24,865.48
50,074.05	1909	27,694.89
46,949.93	1910	32,195.54
52,759.85	1911	38,737.26
54,402.65	1912	42,266.54
49,223.27	1913	44,990.60
45,617.50	1914	52,524.14
46,432.95	1915	54,479.48
62,157.20	1916	56,020.70
86,990.06	1917	67,695.32
113,690.47	1918	87,437.35
<hr/>		<hr/>
\$653,822.70		\$528,907.30

Section 4 of the by-laws of the Bank was amended August 5, 1909, so as to provide for two vice-presidents. This necessity then arose by reason of Mr. Kelsey's absence in Europe. On the same day Joseph Rice was elected Vice-President.

The death of Archibald M. Maddock, Director, who died in this city on March 25, 1910, was officially announced to the Board on the following Thursday, when resolutions were adopted commemorative of his high personal character and generous qualities which he ever exemplified towards his fellow men.



On September 18, 1911, the Bank was officially designated as a Postal Savings Depository, a service which it still performs.

The Vacation and Holiday Clubs were inaugurated March 10, 1913, and they are operated under Charles M. Wrightson's system. At the close of the fiscal year of 1918, the Bank had paid out in the past six years the total sum of \$613,590.76. The annual statements are:

Clubs.	Members.	Amounts.
1913	760	\$14,582.00
1914	2,671	73,630.00
1915	2,955	84,615.00
1916	3,937	123,378.00
1917	4,885	160,087.00
1918	4,085	157,298.76

Mr. Joseph Rice, the Vice-President, and who had been an influential member of the directorate for more than twenty-two years and whose personality exerted a beneficial influence in many directions, after a brief illness died at his summer home in Belmar, N. J., on July 14, 1913, in the 79th year of his age. The funeral services were held in the mortuary chapel of Ivins & Taylor in this city on the following Thursday afternoon, and his remains were subsequently interred in the Greenwood Cemetery.

By reason of the burdens which had gradually been heaped upon the President through the astonishing growth of the Bank, Harry D. Leavitt, the Assistant Cashier and trusted friend of Governor Stokes, on June 1, 1913, was appointed an assistant to the President; and on the death of Mr. Rice, he was again elevated to the position of Vice-President on the 13th of the following November.

The innovation introduced by some of the city banks of keeping their institutions open for business on Friday and Saturday evenings of each week beginning Friday, December 5, 1913, this Bank commenced to do likewise, between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30, but abandoned the scheme on the 2d of the following month.

On Monday, January 26, 1914, Governor Stokes announced to the Board the death of Harry S. Maddock, Director, which occurred at his residence 340 Hamilton Avenue after a few days illness. Mr. Maddock was prominently identified with the leading pottery interests of this city, and by his personality, ability and success he commanded the highest esteem and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. His funeral was held on the following Tuesday morning, and his body interred in Riverview Cemetery.

The Mechanics Bank was the first one in Trenton to notify the Organization Committee of its intention to accept the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act, which it did January 26, 1914. The proposition was ratified on the 16th of the following month. When the geographical limits of the federal system were defined, locating this Bank in District No. 3 and served by the Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia, the necessary stock was subscribed and paid as called for in installments of \$11,000 each on October 30, 1914, January 26 and April 30, 1915.

On September 28, 1914, the Directors approved the plans of Hoggson Brothers, architects, of New York City, recommended by the building committee, to make certain alterations and improvements in the interior of the banking house. These consisted chiefly in installing a ladies' department; removing the Directors' room in the southwest corner of the building and providing a new one on



THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES THE SITE WHERE WERE  
HELD MANY MEETINGS DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
AND WHERE WAS ASSEMBLED ON NOV. 1784 THE CONTINENTAL  
CONGRESS OF THE SEVERAL CONFEDERATED STATES.

HERE THE MARQUIS DE LAFAVETTE TOOK FINAL  
FAREWELL OF CONGRESS DECEMBER 11, 1784, AND HERE  
GENERAL WASHINGTON DINED AND AFTERWARDS HELD A  
RECEPTION WITH THE PRINCIPAL CITIZENS OF TRENTON  
APRIL 2, 1789, WHILE EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK TO ASSUME  
THE DUTIES AS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ON OTHER OCCASIONS THIS SITE WAS THE CENTER OF  
IMPORTANT MILITARY, SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL  
EVENTS. HERE MANY COMMERCIAL, BANKING AND OTHER  
PROMINENT LOCAL INSTITUTIONS WERE ORGANIZED

ERECTED BY THE



NEW JERSEY SOCIETY  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

DECEMBER 11, 1884

the second floor; changing the platform of the executive officers to the Warren Street side; the installation of a new telephone system; new electrical fixtures; electrical elevator; and numerous minor changes.

While the improvements were being made the Bank occupied temporary quarters in the building owned by Mr. Charles Stuckert at No. 10 North Warren Street. It moved thereto on Saturday afternoon, the 5th of October, and returned to its permanent site on Saturday afternoon, December 21, 1914. During the alterations the Board of Directors held its meetings in a room on the second floor of the Bank until the 15th of October, when they were held in the Stuckert building. Thereafter, on November 16, the Board met in the law offices of Mr. Isaac F. Richey at No. 11 West State Street until it removed to its new quarters at the Bank on January 11, 1915.

The New Jersey Society of Pennsylvania on Saturday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock, December 11, 1915, with appropriate ceremonies dedicated a large bronze tablet which it caused to be erected on the outer north wall of the banking house, commemorative of the historical interests associated with the site. Hon. Frederick W. Donnelly, Mayor of the City, in a short speech welcomed the Society to Trenton. The Hon. J. Hampton Moore of Philadelphia made the presentation address, which was responded to by the Hon. Barton B. Hutchinson of this city. The ceremonies were followed by an informal luncheon tendered by the Bank to its guests at the Trenton House.

On March 19, 1917, Governor Stokes announced to the Board of Directors the death of Ferdinand W. Roebeling, which occurred at his residence 222 West State

Street on Friday afternoon, March 16, 1917, following a brief illness. Mr. Roebling became a Director in this Bank January 12, 1869, and with the exception of a little over two months time in the fall of 1892 when he was off from the directorate, he served longer on the Board than any other member.

Mr. Roebling was the son of John A. Roebling, the world's distinguished engineer. He was a most loyal and devoted friend, generous and public spirited, whose personal habits were characterized by simplicity, totally devoid of ostentation. His long career meant much to the financial and other enterprises of this city and to the nation. The funeral rites were conducted at his late residence on the following afternoon, and his remains were subsequently interred in the Ewing Cemetery.

The necessity for more room to accommodate The Mechanics Bank's increased business needs had been so clearly recognized during the past two years that on February 14, 1918, it purchased from Albert C. D. Wilson and others the property adjoining it on the south known as No's 7 and 9 South Warren Street, which will probably be held in reserve until the war conditions favor methods for extending the present banking house or erecting an entirely new structure.

On August 5, 1918, the Bank was designated by the Hon. A. Mitchell Palmer as a depository for the Alien Property Custodian.

By a resolution adopted by the Board on February 10, 1919, application was made to The Federal Reserve Board of Philadelphia for permission to establish a Trust Department in the Bank, to act as Trustee or in any other fiduciary capacity allowable under the laws of New Jersey



*The American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
requests the pleasure of your company  
on Saturday afternoon, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1915  
at 2.30 o'clock at Trenton, New Jersey,  
on the occasion of the erection of a tablet on the  
Bank Building of  
The Mechanics National Bank of Trenton.  
The tablet is to be affixed to the building  
commemorating the site where was sealed the  
Seventh National Congress of the United States  
and where other important military, social and  
governmental events transpired during the  
Revolutionary War.*

*H. S. W. F.  
William F. Trenton, Secretary  
Cromwell Trust Building, Philadelphia*

INVITATION TO THE DEDICATION OF THE BRONZE TABLET





and subject to the regulations of the Federal Reserve Board. The request was approved March 29, 1919, and on the 1st of the following June the Department was opened for business.

The Mechanics Bank was founded with the purpose of making it strictly a commercial institution devoted to the interests of the people of Trenton. It has never deviated from this policy in the slightest degree. The attainment of such splendid results exhibited in the following tabulated statements is without parallel in this city, and it is doubtful whether it can be excelled in any community having the population of Trenton. When it entered the National banking system its growth became steady. Within the past twenty years, under the skillful management of Governor Stokes and his associates, it has grown by leaps and bounds. The assets have increased more than six fold; its surplus has been more than doubled; the undivided profits have increased more than seven fold; and the deposits have risen from \$1,674,074.57 to \$14,499,851.18.

### BANK STATEMENTS

DATE		ASSETS	CAPITAL	SURPLUS	UNDIVIDED PROFITS	DEPOSITS
Nov.	5, 1835	\$172,489 42	\$50,000	.....	.....	\$42,236 84
Jan.	1, 1840	189,898 42	124,080	.....	\$4,772 42	23,663 03
Jan.	1, 1845	251,596 82	100,000	.....	11,629 12	53,823 02
Jan.	1, 1850	268,224 32	100,000	.....	9,889 09	49,216 07
Jan.	1, 1855	566,522 18	225,000	.....	24,305 01	109,455 27
Jan.	2, 1860	663,179 58	300,000	.....	34,839 36	105,696 54
Jan.	2, 1865	1,373,323 54	350,000	.....	65,558 66	321,335 03
July	2, 1866	1,204,384 91	500,000	\$4,357	50,186 03	226,461 20

## BANK STATEMENTS—Continued.

DATE		ASSETS	CAPITAL	SURPLUS	UNDIVIDED PROFITS	DEPOSITS
Jan.	22, 1870	1,390,174 40	500,000	30,000	44,966 67	405,614 37
May	1, 1875	1,535,712 16	500,000	100,000	46,522 41	502,882 93
June	11, 1880	1,582,916 62	500,000	100,000	56,827 12	538,369 67
March	10, 1885	1,666,947 35	500,000	100,000	38,479 17	516,929 05
Feb.	28, 1890	1,900,971 20	500,000	250,000	99,731 52	746,606 63
March	5, 1895	2,609,595 03	500,000	250,000	82,044 56	1,588,067 62
Feb.	13, 1900	2,821,182 70	500,000	250,000	103,704 62	1,674,074 57
Jan.	11, 1905	4,781,835 38	500,000	400,000	153,676 86	3,048,231 77
Jan.	31, 1910	6,728,642 41	500,000	500,000	339,312 21	4,899,615 20
May	1, 1915	7,978,592 63	500,000	600,000	503,433 16	5,494,699 23
March	7, 1916	9,203,008 21	500,000	600,000	526,885 52	6,625,597 01
March	5, 1917	11,050,957 33	500,000	600,000	614,512 44	8,346,990 08
March	4, 1918	14,938,718 46	500,000	600,000	655,878 68	12,444,124 52
Dec.	31, 1918	16,335,593 22	500,000	600,000	727,175 86	13,218,384 90
May	12, 1919	18,223,515 50	500,000	600,000	880,506 30	14,499,851 18

## RESUME

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Bank under its State charter was always composed of thirteen members, who were elected annually on the second Tuesday in April; but on its conversion to the National system on July 1, 1865, the Board consisted of nine members who were elected on the second Tuesday in January of each year. On January 10, 1911, the Board was increased to eleven members, and on the 23d of December, 1912, it was further increased to twelve members. Since the establishment of the Bank in 1834 the Board meetings have been regularly held on Mondays and Thursdays of each week. The hour of meeting at first was ten o'clock in the morning, but on

January 24, 1895 it was changed to eleven o'clock. Subsequently it reverted back to ten o'clock. It has continued to meet at eleven o'clock since July 3, 1911.

### CAPITAL STOCK

The par value of the capital stock has always remained fifty dollars a share. The original issue was 5,000 shares, paid for at various periods down to June 1, 1857 in installments of five dollars each. On March 14, 1843 the capital was reduced to \$100,000. The issue after April 15, 1859 was sold for its full face value. A new certificate of the stock was ordered to be prepared on April 11, 1851. The following table shows when and how the stock was issued and paid:

DATE OF PAYMENT	NO. OF SHARES	AMOUNT PAID	TOTAL CASH CAPITAL.
April 12, 1834	5,000	\$5 00	\$25,000 00
Sept. 1, 1834	.....	5 00	50,000 00
Jan. 2, 1835	.....	5 00	75,000 00
April 11, 1836	.....	5 00	100,000 00
Feb. 4, 1839	.....	5 00	125,000 00
May 15, 1851	.....	5 00	125,000 00
Oct. 1, 1852	.....	5 00	150,000 00
August 1, 1853	.....	5 00	175,000 00
Oct. 1, 1853	.....	5 00	200,000 00
May 1, 1854	.....	5 00	225,000 00
June 1, 1857	.....	5 00	250,000 00
April 15, 1859	500	50 00	275,000 00
Oct. 15, 1859	500	50 00	300,000 00
April 15, 1860	500	50 00	325,000 00
Oct. 15, 1860	500	50 00	350,000 00
April 10, 1866	3,000	50 00	500,000 00

### GROSS EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS

Since the Bank began business September 25, 1834, down to July 1, 1919 the gross earnings have amounted to \$6,585,842.39, out of which \$3,831,680.09 has been paid out in dividends to the stockholders, and \$1,182,730.00 paid in interest to the depositors since September 1, 1908. Nearly two-thirds of the gross earnings have been made within the past twenty years under the regime of Governor Stokes, and nearly half of the total dividends were paid during the same period.

The first dividend was paid October 20, 1835. With the exception of the years 1837, 1838, 1840 and 1842, in which only one annual dividend was declared, dividends were paid semi-annually until 1912, since when they have been declared quarterly. An extra dividend was paid in the years 1899 to 1902, 1906 and 1912. In the years 1903, 1907, 1908, 1910, 1911 and 1918, two extra dividends were declared annually; and in 1919, to July 1, three extra dividends have been made. On July 1, 1864 a special dividend of 5% was paid out of the undivided profits, and another one of 1% was likewise declared June 25, 1917. The 179th regular dividend was paid on the 1st of July, 1919.

Thus, on April 14, 1843, first commenced a series of dividends which have been maintained with clockwork regularity to this day. Moreover, their percentage has constantly increased, or else has been upheld, in spite of the severest financial reverses that the nation has undergone during the years past.

The following list shows the dividends paid on the capital stock, including the two special dividends paid in 1864 and 1917, from the undivided profits to July 1, 1919:

YEAR	RATE PER CENT.	AMOUNT	YEAR	RATE PER CENT.	AMOUNT
1835	3	\$1,500 00	1877	10	\$50,000 00
1836	6	3,250 00	1878	10	50,000 00
1837	3	3,000 00	1879	9	45,000 00
1838	3	3,000 00	1880	9½	47,500 00
1839	3	3,750 00	1881	9	45,000 00
1840	4	5,000 00	1882	9	45,000 00
1841	5	6,250 00	1883	9	45,000 00
1842	2	2,500 00	1884	9	45,000 00
1843	6	6,750 00	1885	9	45,000 00
1844	6	6,000 00	1886	9	45,000 00
1845	6	6,000 00	1887	9	45,000 00
1846	6	6,000 00	1888	9	45,000 00
1847	8	8,000 00	1889	10	50,000 00
1848	8	8,000 00	1890	10	50,000 00
1849	8	8,000 00	1891	10	50,000 00
1850	8	8,000 00	1892	10	50,000 00
1851	7½	8,375 00	1893	10	50,000 00
1852	7½	9,375 00	1894	11	55,000 00
1853	8	12,000 00	1895	12	60,000 00
1854	9½	20,000 00	1896	11	55,000 00
1855	9	20,000 00	1897	10	50,000 00
1856	9	20,000 00	1898	10	50,000 00
1857	7½	17,500 00	1899	11	55,000 00
1858	8	20,000 00	1900	11	55,000 00
1859	8	21,000 00	1901	11	55,000 00
1860	8 2/3	24,000 00	1902	11	55,000 00
1861	8	28,000 00	1903	12	60,000 00
1862	8	28,000 00	1904	12	60,000 00
1863	9	31,500 00	1905	12	60,000 00
1864	10	35,000 00	1906	14	70,000 00
....	5	3,284 97	1907	14	70,000 00
1865	15	52,500 00	1908	14	70,000 00
1866	10	42,500 00	1909	14	70,000 00
1867	10	50,000 00	1910	16	80,000 00
1868	10	50,000 00	1911	16	80,000 00
1869	10	50,000 00	1912	23	115,000 00
1870	10	50,000 00	1913	20	100,000 00
1871	10	50,000 00	1914	20	100,000 00
1872	10	50,000 00	1915	20	100,000 00
1873	10	50,000 00	1916	17	85,000 00
1874	10	50,000 00	1917	24	120,000 00
1875	10	50,000 00	....	1	6,145 12
1876	10	50,000 00	1918	32	160,000 00
....	..	.....	1919*	31	155,000 00

\* To July 1, 1919.

## THE BANK IN WAR PERIODS

## CIVIL WAR

Immediately following the bombardment of Fort Sumpter the Board of Directors of The Mechanics Bank on April 18, 1861, unanimously "Resolved, That a loan of \$25,000 be tendered to the State of New Jersey to meet any extraordinary expenses which may be required in the present state of public affairs, and that the President be directed to notify the Governor of this action." This was the *first* Bank in the City of Trenton to make such a patriotic offer. In commenting on this extraordinary liberality of the Bank *The State Gazette* on the following morning said:

It gives us great pleasure to record the fact that The Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank of this city yesterday tendered to Governor Olden the loan of \$25,000 towards equipping and providing for those, and the families of those, who might volunteer in response to the call made upon this State by the President of the United States. The Board of Directors at the same meeting made a personal subscription of \$1,200 toward a fund to be raised by our citizens for a like purpose. This was the first bank of the city to make such a patriotic movement. It speaks volumes in favor of such an institution and for the patriotism of those who have its direction.

On the following Monday a communication from Governor Olden was read before the Board, stating that he was without legal authority to borrow money or even use the State's money without an appropriation; but, if the Directors "felt at liberty in consideration of the pressing nature of the demand and on the faith that the Legislature will make repayment of the advance, which I should recommend and have no doubt they will cheerfully do, I then would be most happy to avail myself to some extent of the relief your offer would afford." Upon this reply the Directors unanimously resolved, however, "to adhere

to the original offer, trusting to the good faith of the Legislature to make provision for its repayment."

Almost simultaneously with this tender to the State a patriotic move was started by The Mechanics Bank to create a fund from public subscription to aid in the support of the families of such volunteers from Trenton who should engage in the United States service. On Tuesday, April 23rd, the names and the sums given by the contributors, amounting to \$1,910, were announced in *The State Gazette*. A further subscription obtained by the Bank was published in the same paper on the following Monday morning.

On May 16, 1861, in pursuance of a circular letter received from the Governor of New Jersey in relation to a loan of \$500,000 for the use of the State, the Directors "Resolved, That this bank will subscribe for \$35,000 of said loan, being ten per cent of its capital." Another loan of \$35,000 was made to the State on September 9, 1861; and before the close of 1863 the Bank extended further loans to the amount of \$125,000, with such additional accommodations as were thereafter called for.

The Mechanics Bank also in the years 1863 and 1864 loaned the Freeholders of Mercer County various sums for paying bounties to its volunteers in the United States service, aggregating \$142,000. For the same purpose aggregate loans were made to the City Council of Trenton in 1864 in the sum of \$20,000; and in the same year \$8,000 was likewise advanced to the Committee of Hamilton Township, in Mercer County.

### GERMAN-AMERICAN WAR

When the United States entered the *World's Conflict* against the Imperial German Government by the declara-

tion of its Congress made April 6, 1917, this Bank was foremost among the financial institutions of the country that rallied to the support of the national government in its task of providing the sinews of warfare.

On the 3d of the following month the President of the Bank received the following telegram from the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington:

Government will receive subscriptions until June fifteenth for two billion dollars three and one-half per cent. Liberty Loan. You can render invaluable service to your country by receiving subscriptions and co-operating with Federal Reserve Bank your district; will you kindly do this and telegraph me, Government expense, soon as practical, rough estimate amount of bonds you think will be subscribed by you and your customers.

W. G. McADOO,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

In reply thereto by wire on the following day Governor Stokes said:

Our bank has for some time been advertising that we would receive subscriptions to Government bonds without charge to the subscribers. Will be glad to co-operate with the Federal Reserve Bank. Expect to have personal conference with officers thereof to-day.

E. C. STOKES,  
President.

On Monday morning, May 7th, the Bank immediately started the movement by making application for the purchase of \$100,000 of Liberty bonds; and at the same time ordered a displayed advertisement to be inserted the following day in every newspaper published in the city, announcing that the Bank would not only receive subscriptions for the Liberty Loan, but that it had formed "A War Bond Club" whereby bonds might be purchased



by small investors on the plan which the "Christmas" and "Holiday" clubs had been so successfully conducted by the Bank. This public announcement for the sale of Liberty bonds was the *first* to appear from any financial institution in Trenton.

The quantity of bonds purchased by The Mechanics Bank from the five series of the Liberty Loan amounted to \$8,548,450. The allotment assigned to the Bank from the first two issues was bought in full; but the purchaseable share from the third and fourth series was unlimited. Of the 1st issue, June 15, 1917, the bank's allowance was \$815,700, yet it had subscriptions for \$1,342,250; the 2d issue, November 15, 1917, its portion was \$1,055,100, with subscriptions for \$1,240,000; of the 3d issue, May 9, 1918, the Bank's subscriptions amounted to 1,485,600. When the latter sale was communicated by Governor Stokes to the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, he immediately responded by wire:

I have your telegram and congratulate you heartily upon your fine showing in the Liberty Loan.

Of the 4th issue of the Liberty Loan the Bank, by resolutions of the Board of Directors adopted on October 17 and 31, 1918, purchased \$2,842,500 of bonds. Had it not been for the serious epidemic of the so-called Spanish Influenza, which caused the health authorities to quarantine the inhabitants of this city and elsewhere for most of the three weeks of the "drive" ending on the 19th of that month, the Bank's sales undoubtedly would have exceeded the amount of bonds purchased. Under these adverse circumstances the sales equalled the quantity procured. On May 20, 1919, the Bank's subscription to the

5th issue was \$2,349,550. In other words the first two series of the loan were over-subscribed by the customers of the Bank to the extent of \$711,450, which, if their applications could have been filled, would have brought the Bank's total purchase of Liberty bonds up to the stupendous sum of \$9,259,900 instead of \$8,548,450.

The activity of the Directors of The Mechanics Bank in the great patriotic movement which enveloped the people of the country was not limited to the sale of Liberty bonds, for when the Board declared a special dividend of one per cent. out of the undivided profits of the Bank on June 28, 1917, amounting to \$6,145.12, upon motion of Isaac F. Richey it was unanimously resolved that the special dividend checks be transmitted to the stockholders "with a letter suggesting that the stockholders who are willing to do so, should endorse and return the checks with instructions to the Bank that they be sent to the Treasurer of the Red Cross Committee of the City of Trenton." At the same Board meeting, on motion of the Hon. Henry C. Kelsey, it was further resolved that the Bank be enrolled as a "Patron" in the American Red Cross Society, with a membership fee of one hundred dollars. Again, upon the motion of the Hon. Newton A. K. Bugbee made May 20, 1918, the Directors unanimously resolved to contribute \$5,000 for use to the Red Cross Fund in Trenton. On the 14th of the following November, the Board of Directors by unanimous consent appropriated the further sum of \$5,000 to the United War Workers' Campaign Fund.

The staff of employes have been equally patriotic. When individually summoned to the colours they cheerfully responded, with the assurance from the Bank that their positions would be opened to them upon their return

from the military or naval service. To November 11, 1918, the ROLL OF HONOR consisted of

OSCAR BRÜNNER, Switzerland Reserves.

JOHN L. WILLIAMSON, U. S. Army.

STANLEY L. RITTER, Field Artillery.

THOMAS H. STACKHOUSE, Machine Gun Company.

JOHN H. PURDY, Aviation Corps.

HUGH R. BARRY, U. S. Navy.

GEORGE A. MCGLOUGHLIN, U. S. Navy.

On Monday, November 11, 1918, at 2.47 o'clock in the morning, the people of Trenton were apprised with official news from Washington announcing the signing in France of an armistice between the commander-in-chief of the allied armies and the representatives of the German Empire, effecting practically an unconditional surrender of the armed forces of the latter government and a cessation of hostilities between the belligerents the same morning at eleven o'clock Paris, or six o'clock Washington, time, thus bringing to a successful conclusion the most gigantic war known in history. In honor of this *glorious triumph of arms* over our enemies The Mechanics Bank closed its doors on the afternoon of the following day at 12.30 o'clock, to afford its employes an opportunity to participate with the populace in the greatest and most patriotic demonstration ever witnessed in the city of Trenton.

### PUBLIC CALAMITIES

Characteristic with the patriotic spirit developed in war periods The Mechanics Bank, its officers, directors and employes individually have always responded generously in extending aid to the sufferers from great disasters which have in the past infrequently overwhelmed the people of the country.

The catastrophe happening at New Brunswick, in this State, from a tornado on Friday afternoon, June 19, 1835—a serious one in its day, which laid the town waste and did much injury to life and limb, the Bank gave fifty dollars.

To the unfortunates of the great Johnstown Flood, occurring May 31, 1889, the Bank not only contributed \$250 but the directors and employes gave liberally, and the Bank otherwise collected several thousands of dollars to effect the imperative relief. "There was no disaster in the world so appalling or which combined so great a loss of life and property" said the Hon. Henry C. Kelsey correctly when speaking of this great calamity before a mass meeting of the citizens of Trenton assembled in the Board of Trade on the following Monday evening, when he handed to Mayor Skirm his personal check for \$100.

The Bank made the first subscription given in this city towards the relief of the sufferers from the terrible earthquake and fire which occurred in San Francisco on the morning of April 18, 1906, to the amount of \$1,000. Its directors and employes also generously responded to this charitable necessity.

## AFFILIATIONS

The Bank is necessarily identified with membership in The Trenton Bankers Association, which institution was organized in The Mechanics Bank on Thursday afternoon, December 5, 1907; as well as its subsidiary, the Trenton Clearing House, which was formed and commenced operations on the 1st of the following May.

It is also a member of the American Bankers Association; the New Jersey State Bankers Association; Na-

tional Association of Owners of Railroad Securities; American Red Cross Society; and the Trenton Chamber of Commerce. The first affiliation the Bank had was with the "Central Association of Banks for the Suppression of Counterfeiting" on July 16, 1860.

## EMPLOYES

A proportionate share of the prosperity of The Mechanics Bank is to be attributed to its industrious, loyal and faithful corps of clerks. It is a proud distinction of the Bank that, in the eighty-four years of its existence, not one has traduced its confidence. Merit has been the inflexible rule for advancement. In recognition of these valued services the Bank in many substantial ways, from the earliest times to the present, has generously contributed to their personal welfare and contentment. In addition to the annual Christmas present theretofore granted to the officers and employes for faithful services, the Board of Directors, on December 21, 1911, ordered an extra allowance of one per centum of the net earnings of the Bank to be divided among them annually according to current salaries, to infuse in them new strength, courage and energy in the application of their services to the Bank's interest; which gratuity was increased to two per centum of like earnings made the previous year by a resolution of the Board adopted on January 6, 1919. This system has had a most salutary effect.

## CONCLUSION

From the time the organization was effected in 1834, the progress of The Mechanics Bank has been a history of splendid successes, unshaken by any of the numerous com-

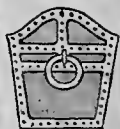
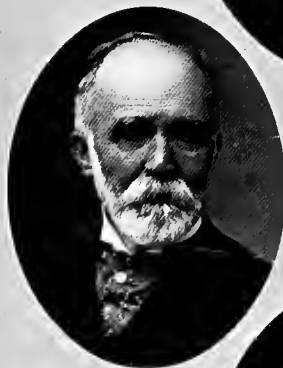
mercial and industrial depressions and calamities that have befallen the city of Trenton. The managers of the Bank have always maintained the principle that the first duty of a bank, as a man in business, is to be honest, sound and strong, and that the only true source of a real financial prosperity is to be sought in the well-deserved confidence of the public.

We may well apply to them the language of Woods-worth in regard to the great architects of the middle ages, they dreamt not of a perishable bank. They looked upon a bank as a machine for the safe investment of capital and not a patent invention for pumping the money of Peter into the speculations of Paul.

The business of the Bank naturally numbers among its depositors all classes of business interests, from the rich to the man of moderate means; and it has always been its policy to accord identical treatment to all its customers alike and to keep in close touch with the men who are the real business builders in our community.

The President, Vice-Presidents and Cashier occupy desks exposed to the public, and every caller is courteously received, whatever may be the business. This accessibility by the public to the executive officers at all times is a strong feature of the Bank, so community of interests may be quickly sought.







## SKETCH OF THE PRESENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

EDWARD CASPER STOKES was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., on December 22, 1860. He was educated in the public schools of Millville in New Jersey, at the Friends' School in Providence, R. I., and graduated from Brown University in the Class of 1883. Subsequently the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Rutgers and also by Dickinson College.

In political life Governor Stokes served as Superintendent of the Millville Public Schools, 1889-1895; Member of the New Jersey Assembly, 1891-1892; Member of the New Jersey Senate, 1893-1901—President in 1895; Clerk in Chancery, 1901-1905; Acting Chairman of the Republican State Committee, 1902-1905; and Governor of the State of New Jersey, 1905-1908.

In business circles he was Receiving Teller of the Millville National Bank, 1883-1889; Director of The Mechanics Bank on January 10, 1899, and elected its President on April 27, 1899. On April 17, 1906, he was elected on the Board of Managers of The Trenton Saving Fund Society.

Governor Stokes has the distinction of being the first President of the New Jersey State Bankers' Association, as well as the first Vice-President of the Trenton Bankers' Association.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

HENRY COOPER KELSEY is the senior official of The Mechanics Bank, having serving continuously since January 16, 1888 as a Director, and as Vice-President since February 1, 1894.

He was born in Sparta, in the county of Sussex, N. J., on December 4, 1837, in which village he received his education, and where he was established in the mercantile business before the Civil War.

Mr. Kelsey's subsequent life was largely devoted to the public service. About 1862 he won his first political recognition when he was appointed postmaster at Newton. In 1866 he received the ap-

pointment of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Sussex County. In the following year, in addition to his judicial duties, he branched out in journalism by purchasing and operating the "New Jersey Herald." On April 1, 1870, Governor Theodore F. Randolph appointed him Secretary of State, which office he continued to hold for successive terms until April 1, 1897—serving longer than any other appointive official in the history of the State of New Jersey with the single exception of Chief Justice Mercer Beasley.

During his public career Mr. Kelsey was enabled to care for his private affairs. He became largely interested in gas companies, particularly in Newark, where, owing mainly to his efforts, the two gas companies were consolidated, and which was subsequently sold to the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia. In addition to other large interests, for many years he was a Director in the Sussex National Bank of Newton.

Aside from the diversion he obtained in foreign travel and acquiring a valuable collection of rare objects in pottery and bric-a-brac, Mr. Kelsey, since the death of his wife on January 3, 1904, has devoted most of his attention to acts of philanthropy on a magnificent scale both at Newton and in Trenton, in memory of Mrs. Kelsey by whom he had no issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

HARRY DUNBAR LEAVITT, the son of Dr. Lyman and Martha Leavitt, was born in Trenton, N. J., September 13, 1871, and educated in the Trenton public schools and the Stewart Business College.

On graduating from the latter institution he became associated with the Trenton Banking Company, where he remained seven months, when, on December 15, 1889, he resigned to become Correspondence Clerk in The Mechanics Bank. After passing through the various grades of the Bank he was appointed Assistant-Cashier on December 31, 1903; and on June 1, 1913, he was appointed an Assistant to the President. He was elected Vice-President on the 13th of November, 1913, to succeed Joseph Rice, deceased.

Mr. Leavitt was a member of the Common Council of the City of Trenton in 1897, serving two terms; and he also served two terms as a member of the New Jersey House of Assembly in 1902 and 1903.

He was appointed a member of the Park Commission of his native city by Mayor Gnichtel, and served in that capacity until the Mayor transferred him to the School Board, of which he remained a member until his election to the New Jersey State Senate in 1907, to which position he was re-elected in 1910.

Mr. Leavitt is the Chairman of the Republican County Committee, and a member of the Bethany Presbyterian Church.

### CASHIER

JOSEPH ROWLAND SWEENEY, who is a son of Captain Thomas and Mary F. Sweeney, of New Zealand, was born in Trenton, N. J., July 30, 1847, and attended the Centre Street public school of his native city.

In 1861 he accepted a clerical position with the New Jersey Steel & Iron Company. On March 1, 1865, he volunteered in the 40th New Jersey Volunteers; and at the close of the Civil War, while holding the important detail of chief clerk to the First Brigade, he was duly mustered out, when he resumed his former position with the New Jersey Steel & Iron Co., and was ultimately advanced to the position of paymaster of that corporation. He resigned the latter position on the 14th of November, 1870, to enter the employ of The Mechanics Bank the following day as Personal-Ledger Bookkeeper. Having been promoted through the superior grades to the office of Assistant-Cashier on January 12, 1888, he was subsequently elected Cashier on December 31, 1903.

Mr. Sweeney represented the former Brough of Chambersburg, now part of the City of Trenton, as Councilman; and he also served as Clerk of the same political corporation.

He is also Past-Master of Trenton Lodge No. 5, F. & A. M.; Past-High Priest of 3 times 3 Chapter No. 5, R. A. M.; and Past-Chief Patriarch of South Trenton Encampment No. 40, I. O. O. F.

### ASSISTANT-CASHIER

JACOB CADWALLADER SLACK is a son of Abraham Kinsey and Caroline Cadwallader Slack, and was born on a farm near Morrisville, Pa., March 23, 1861. He received his education at the Pine Grove School, in the Yardley High School, and subsequently pur-

sued a course at Rider's Business College and another at Stewart's Business College in the City of Trenton.

After serving three years as bookkeeper for William H. Moon, in the spring of 1884 he accepted a similar position with the firm of Murray & Griffith in this city.

On May 15, 1885, Mr. Slack entered the employ of this Bank as Correspondence Clerk. After passing through the several grades he was appointed Assistant-Cashier on May 23, 1907.

## DIRECTORS

ISAAC FARLEE RICHEY, who was born at Asbury, in Warren County, N. J., on the 3d day of May, 1851, and educated in the private schools of Trenton, to which city he formerly removed, has the unique distinction of being third in descent of a family who has been officially identified with The Mechanics Bank since April 14, 1835—commencing with his grandfather, General Isaac G. Farlee, and who was followed by his father, the late Hon. Augustus G. Richey. He commenced the study of law with his father in 1871, and after pursuing a year's course in the Harvard Law School was admitted to the bar in New Jersey as an Attorney in 1875 and as a Counsellor three years later.

In the year 1875, Mr. Richey was admitted as a law partner with his father, and for nearly twenty years the firm was known as A. G. Richey & Son. On the death of his father in January, 1894, he continued the practice of law for some years; but, owing to the fact of his being interested in many corporations, he decided to devote nearly all his attention in caring for these interests.

Aside from being a Director in The Mechanics Bank, Mr. Richey is President of The Trenton Saving Fund Society, The Forst-Richey Building, and the Enterprise Land Company; Vice-President of The Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad, and The East Trenton Railroad Companies; and Director in The Standard Fire Insurance Company, The Keystone Coal Company, The Peale, Peacock & Kerr, Incorporated, and the Collingswood Land Company. He is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Prospect Street Presbyterian Church, and a Trustee of Mercer Hospital. On June 10, 1918, he was appointed by Governor Edge a member of the State Board of Conservation and Development.

RUDOLPH VICTOR KUSER, who is a son of Rudolph and Rosalie Prieth Kuser, was born in Newark, N. J., June 3, 1855, and is one of the five brothers who are so prominently identified with many of the important commercial and financial interests of New Jersey.

Upon receiving his education in the public and parochial schools of his native city, Mr. Kuser then studied engineering. He then became associated with the firm of Gould & Eberhardt of Newark, and subsequently came to Trenton to accept the office of Vice-President of the People's Brewing Company and of the Trenton Hygenia Ice Company.

Mr. Kuser became a Director of The Mechanics Bank on October 12, 1905. At present he is a Director in the Commercial Casualty Insurance Company, Standard Fire Insurance Company, Mercer Automobile Company, Inter-State Fair Association, Belle Mead Sweetsmakers, People's Brewing Company, Trenton Brewing Company, and many other corporations.

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FERDINAND WILLIAM ROEBLING, JR., was born in Trenton, N. J., September 29, 1878. He graduated from Lehigh University in the Class of 1901, with the degree of M. E.

Mr. Roebling, who became a Director of The John A. Roebling's Sons Company on June 13, 1902, and its Secretary and Treasurer on May 1, 1917, has been a Director of The Mechanics Bank since January 10, 1911.

He is also President of the Trenton Brass & Machine Company, the Union Mills Paper Manufacturing Company, and the Universal Paper Bag Company; Treasurer of the New Jersey Wire Cloth Company, and the McFarland Foundry & Machine Company; and a Director in the Mechanics & Metals National Bank of New York City, the Trenton Theatre Building Company, Inter-State Fair Association, the Virginia Railway & Power Company, the Securities Corporation General, the Auburn & Syracuse Electric Railroad Company, and other large corporations.

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SCOTT SCAMMELL, one of the members of the Bar practising before the courts of New Jersey and New York, was born in Trenton on May 21, 1875. He was educated in the high school of this city; studied law, and was admitted to the bar as an attorney at the

November Term of the Supreme Court in 1899. Three years later the degree of counsellor-at-law was conferred upon him.

Shortly after his admission to the Bar, Mr. Scammell became the junior member of the prominent law firm of Vroom, Dickinson and Scammell. After the death of Judge Vroom, he became the senior member of the firm of Scammell, Bodine and Besore. Recently Mr. Scammell became associated with Herbert Noble, of the well known law firm of Noble and Estabrook, and William Osgood Morgan, an eminent lawyer of New York City.

On December 10, 1907, Mr. Scammell was commissioned Judge Advocate in the National Guard of New Jersey with the rank of Major. He was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel in the same department February 18, 1913, and assigned to Division Headquarters.

Colonel Scammell was elected a Director of The Mechanics Bank on January 10, 1911. On the death of Judge Vroom, he was elected Attorney for the Bank on March 9, 1914. He is also Counsel for The Trenton Saving Fund Society, and otherwise connected with many other large corporations.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWTON ALBERT KENDALL BUGBEE, who was elected a Director of The Mechanics Bank on January 10, 1911, is a native of Minneapolis, Minn., where he was born April 21, 1876. About the year 1888 he moved with his parents to Templeton, Mass., where he completed his education as a civil engineer.

On January 1, 1904, after being connected with the Edgemore Bridge Works, the Pottsville Steel and Iron Company and the New Jersey Steel and Iron Company, he started in business on his own account, and is now secretary and treasurer of the Newton A. K. Bugbee Company (Inc.), structural iron work contractors, which company is so favorably and successfully associated with the business world.

Mr. Bugbee's relationship to the Republican party of his adopted State, aside from his social, charitable and other attainments, identifies him prominently in the confidence of the public and its affairs, for he has been since September, 1913, Chairman of the Republican State Committee, and Comptroller of the State of New Jersey since his election on January 30, 1917.

WILLIAM JOHN CONVERY has always resided in Trenton, where he was born October 28, 1853. He received a thorough English education in St. John's School of his native city, and is a graduate of Rider's Business College.

Mr. Convery was elected a Director in The Mechanics Bank on January 14, 1913. He is now president of the incorporated firm of William J. Convery & Sons, one of the largest and most successful dealers in furniture, carpets and interior decorations in this part of the country. This business was originally established by Mr. Convery in 1884 under the firm name of Convery & Walker, which name was subsequently changed to William J. Convery & Son in 1910, on the retirement of Mr. Thomas Walker.

In politics Mr. Convery has always been identified with the Democratic party, and served it as a Member of the New Jersey Assembly in the years 1882 and 1883. He is at present one of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of Trenton.

\* \* \* \* \*

SAMUEL TITUS ATCHLEY was born in Ewing Township, Mercer County, N. J., on June 8, 1862, and subsequently educated in the public school at Ewingville and at the old Trenton Academy.

Since early life Mr. Atchley has been actively and successfully engaged in farming pursuits, which activity he partly relinquished when he became Treasurer of the Consumers' Ice and Coal Company in Trenton in 1902, and which company he organized in conjunction with Mr. D. Clinton Cook. On September 1, 1907 he became Warden of the New Jersey State Hospital near Trenton, which position he still retains.

In politics Sheriff Atchley has always been a staunch Republican. He was a member of the Ewing Township Committee from 1893 until 1899; Sergeant-at-Arms of the New Jersey State Senate for three years commencing January 12, 1897; and on November 8, 1899, he was elected Sheriff of Mercer County. On June 6, 1906, he was appointed a member of the Mercer County Tax Board by Governor Stokes, which office he resigned on September 1, 1907 to become Warden of the New Jersey State Hospital.

Besides being a Director in The Mechanics Bank, he was elected a Director of the Inter-State Fair Association on January 13, 1900, and a Director of the E. C. Hutchinson Milling Company in January, 1902, which relations have since been continued.

ARCHIBALD MIDDLETON MADDOCK was born in Jersey City, N. J., on February 26th, 1880. Early in 1881 Mr. Maddock's father, who was then engaged in the general house-furnishing business in Jersey City, decided to accept an offer from his father, Mr. Thomas Maddock, to enter the potter business in Trenton, New Jersey.

The boyhood of Mr. Archie Maddock ended when he completed his education in the Trenton public schools and what is now known as Rider, Moore & Stewart Business College, and immediately thereafter Mr. Maddock went to work under his father in the Pottery. This was in September of 1898.

In February, 1911, Mr. Archie Maddock was elected President and General Manager of Thomas Maddock's Sons Company, which position he occupies to-day. During the intervening years Mr. Maddock has risen in the sanitary pottery industry as well as in the plumbing supply and allied trades.

A short time ago he was elected President of The Sanitary Potters' Association, a National body; and he is also a Director in the Maddock Pottery Company and the Jonathan Bartley Crucible Company, both large concerns of this city. He was elected a Director in The Mechanics Bank on January 29, 1914, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of his cousin, Harry Smith Maddock.

Mr. Maddock is deeply interested in his business, as well as in civic and welfare work in this community.

\* \* \* \* \*

ROBERT CURTIS KOLB is the direct descendant of that noted family who have continuously and successfully conducted the "Kolb Bakeries" both in Europe and this country for the past one hundred and fifty years.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on June 15, 1876, and was educated in the public schools of his native city. Upon leaving school he immediately entered the establishment of his father, John G. Kolb, in Philadelphia, where he applied himself in acquiring the science of the family trade. In 1903 Mr. Kolb came to Trenton and established a bakery, which now occupies an entire square near the center of the city, and of which he is sole proprietor.

Mr. Kolb was elected a Director of The Mechanics Bank on December 10, 1914. With the exception of being on this directorate, Mr. Kolb has always refrained from being officially identified with corporate interests, preferring to devote his entire attention to his



extensive business. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity as he is of the Order of Elks, in Trenton, and is much interested in the civic welfare of his adopted city.

\* \* \* \* \*

KARL GUSTAVUS ROEBLING was born in the city of Trenton, New Jersey, on the 7th of July, 1873. He was educated in the Lawrenceville Preparatory School, and graduated from Princeton University in the Class of 1894.

He was elected a Director in The Mechanics Bank on January 14, 1902, but declined a re-election on January 10, 1911 by reason of his business engagements. On March 22, 1917, he was again elected a Director to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of his father, Ferdinand William Roebling.

Mr. Roebling is President of The John A. Roebling's Sons Company, and is officially connected with many other large corporations.

## PRICE OF STOCK

Par Value \$50 a Share.

YEAR	HIGH	YEAR	HIGH
1866	\$59.00	1915	\$240.00
1883	76.50	1916	265.00
1899	85.50	1917	255.00
1905	109.00	1918	285.00
1910	152.00	1919	305.00





JASPER S. SCUDDER  
 CHARLES PARKER  
 SAMUEL EVANS  
 WILLIAM GRANT  
 JACOB KLINE  
 GEORGE DILL

## OFFICERS OF THE MECHANICS BANK

### PRESIDENTS

	From	To
JASPER SMITH SCUDDER	April 15, 1834	April 14, 1836.
CHARLES PARKER	April 14, 1836	April 13, 1837.
WILLIAM GRANT	April 13, 1837	April 16, 1840.
SAMUEL EVANS	April 16, 1840	April 15, 1841.
JACOB KLINE	April 15, 1841	(*) Nov. 15, 1844.
GEORGE DILL	Jan. 6, 1845	April 13, 1852.
TIMOTHY ABBOTT, JR.	April 13, 1852	(†) Oct. 17, 1853.
JOSEPH GILLINGHAM BREARLEY	Oct. 17, 1853	Jan. 11, 1870.
TIMOTHY ABBOTT, JR.	Jan. 11, 1870	(*) Nov. 20, 1882.
DANIEL PARRY FORST	Jan. 9, 1883	(*) May 9, 1887.
JOHN MOSES	May 16, 1887	(†) Mar. 27, 1890.
SERING POTTER DUNHAM	April 7, 1890	(†) Jan. 9, 1899.
WILLIAM MERSHON LANNING	Jan. 12, 1899	(†) April 27, 1899.
EDWARD CASPER STOKES	April 27, 1899	

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

JONATHAN FISK	May 6, 1867	Jan. 11, 1870.
DANIEL PARRY FORST	Nov. 20, 1882	Jan. 9, 1883.
JOHN STORY CHAMBERS	May 23, 1887	Jan. 8, 1889.
AUGUSTUS GODLEY RICHEY	Jan. 10, 1889	(*) Jan. 15, 1894.
HENRY COOPER KELSEY	Feb. 1, 1894	
JOSEPH RICE	Aug. 5, 1909	(*) July 14, 1913.
HARRY DUNBAR LEAVITT	Nov. 13, 1913	

### CASHIERS

CHARLES PARKER	April 15, 1834	April 14, 1836.
JASPER SMITH SCUDDER	April 14, 1836	April 13, 1837.
CHARLES PARKER	April 13, 1837	(†) April 20, 1840.
TIMOTHY ABBOTT, JR.	April 20, 1840	April 13, 1852.
JONATHAN FISK	April 13, 1852	(†) May 6, 1867.
WILLIAM HOWE	May 6, 1867	(*) Oct. 31, 1870.
JAMES HENRY CLARK	Nov. 7, 1870	(†) April 2, 1883.
WILLIAM WATTS STELLE	April 5, 1883	(†) Dec. 31, 1903.
JOSEPH ROLAND SWEENEY	Dec. 31, 1903	

\* Died; † Resigned.

## ASSISTANT CASHIERS

	From	To
CHARLES WHITEHEAD	April 14, 1864	(†) Feb. 22, 1866.
WILLIAM HOWE	May 21, 1866	May 6, 1867.
WILLIAM WATTS STELLE	May 17, 1880	April 5, 1883.
JOSEPH ROLAND SWEENEY	Jan. 12, 1888	Dec. 31, 1903.
HARRY DUNBAR LEAVITT	Dec. 31, 1903	Nov. 13, 1913.
JACOB CADWALLADER SLACK	May 23, 1907	

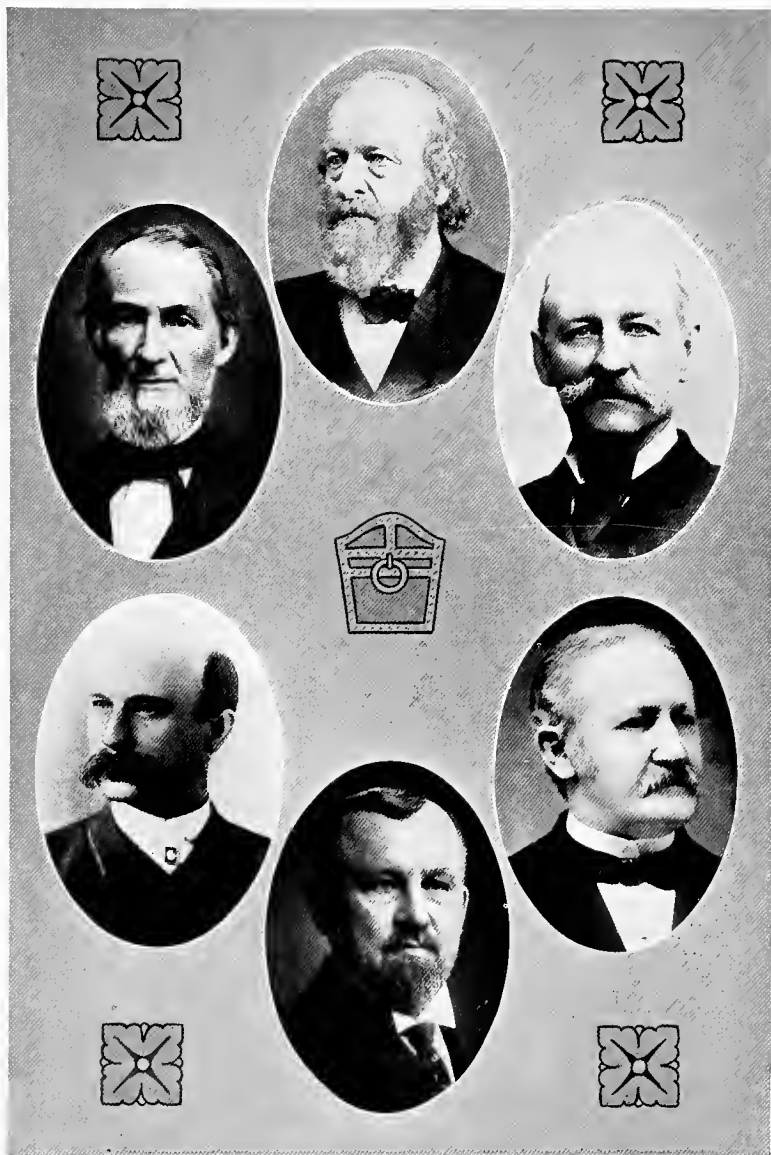
## ATTORNEYS

SAMUEL RANDOLPH HAMILTON	April 16, 1835	(†) April 20, 1837.
HENRY WOODHULL GREEN	April 20, 1837	(†) April 20, 1840.
JAMES WILSON	April 20, 1840	April 21, 1842.
STACY GARDNER POTTS	April 21, 1842	(†) Feb. 2, 1852.
MERCER BEASLEY	Feb. 2, 1852	(†) April 20, 1857.
AUGUSTUS GODLEY RICHEY	April 20, 1857	(*) Jan. 15, 1894.
WILLIAM MERSHON LANNING	Mar. 12, 1894	(†) June 6, 1904.
GARRET DORSET WALL VROOM	June 6, 1904	(*) Mar. 4, 1914.
SCOTT SCAMMELL	Mar. 9, 1914	

## NOTARIES PUBLIC

JOSEPH C. POTTE	May 2, 1836	Sept. 11, 1837.
WILLIAM P. SHERMAN	Sept. 11, 1837	(*) Oct. 29, 1857.
JAMES ROGERS	Nov. 16, 1857	(*) Dec. 20, 1868.
JOSEPH H. HOUGH	Dec. 21, 1868	(†) Aug. 22, 1889.
CLEVELAND HILSON	Aug. 29, 1889	Oct. 2, 1893.
JACOB CADWALLADER SLACK	Oct. 2, 1893	

\* Died; † Resigned.



TIMOTHY ABBOTT, JR.  
JOSEPH G. BREARLEY DANIEL P. FORST  
JOHN MOSES SERING P. DUNHAM  
WILLIAM M. LANNING





## SKETCH OF THE DIRECTORS

Including their corporate interests while connected with The Mechanics Bank. Residence of each is Trenton unless otherwise stated.

### DIRECTORS

**TIMOTHY ABBOTT, JR.:** Cashier, April 20, 1840; President and Director, April 13, 1852; Director, October 17, 1853 to June 30, 1865; President and Director, January 11, 1870 to November 20, 1882. Director, Trenton Delaware Falls Co., June 2, 1834; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844; Secretary and Manager, May 18, 1847; Manager, July 9, 1847 to November 20, 1882; Vice-President and Director, Trenton Water Power Co., 1845; Director, 1857 to 1859; Vice-President and Director, Trenton Iron Co., 1857 to 1859. Incorporator, Trenton Oil Cloth Manufacturing Co., March 3, 1855; The National Pottery Co., March 3, 1869, and The New Jersey Trust & Safe Deposit Co., March 26, 1872. Born near Trenton, N. J., June 3, 1809; died at Trenton, N. J., November 20, 1882.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JAMES ANDERSON:** Director, August 1, 1842 to April 12, 1853. Farmer. Born near Trenton, N. J., March 3, 1798; died at Trenton, N. J., November 17, 1863.

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**SAMUEL TITUS ATCHLEY:** Director, January 14, 1913; present incumbent. (See p. III.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**STACY BROWN BARCROFT:** Director, April 8, 1845 to April 10, 1849. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa. Dry Goods Merchant. Director, Girard National Bank, 1847-1849; 1852-1854; 1858-1859; 1860-1864; and 1867-1869. Born at Kingwood, N. J., January 29, 1795; died at Philadelphia, Pa., March 19, 1870.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MERCER BEASLEY:** Attorney, February 2, 1852; Attorney and Director, April 13, 1852; Attorney, April 14, 1857 to April 20,

1857. Counsellor-at-Law. Chief Justice Supreme Court of New Jersey, March 8, 1864 to February 19, 1897. Born at Philadelphia, Pa., March 27, 1815; died at Trenton, N. J., February 19, 1897.

\* \* \* \* \*

CRISPIN BLACKFAN: Director, March 19, 1835 to April 11, 1837. Born in Bucks County, Pa., September 25, 1796; died at Trenton, N. J., July 22, 1848.

\* \* \* \* \*

OGDEN WILKINSON BLACKFAN: Director, June 24, 1867 to January 11, 1870. Coal, Wood & Lumber Merchant. Director, People's Fire Insurance Co., 1865-1868; and President, Board of Trade, 1872. Born in Bucks County, Pa., January 14, 1826; died at Trenton, N. J., March 28, 1873.

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JOSEPH GILLINGHAM BREARLEY: Director, April 8, 1845; President and Director, October 17, 1853; Director, January 11, 1870 to April 23, 1874. Hardware Merchant. City Treasurer of Trenton, 1839-1840; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, April 13, 1852 to April 23, 1874; Treasurer, Temperance Hall Association, 1854-1859; Director, The U. S. Casualty Co., February 13, 1866; Director, Mercer Pottery Co., October 14, 1868 to April 23, 1874; Treasurer, Washington Market Association, February 8, 1870 to April 23, 1874; and Manager, The State Savings Bank, 1870. Incorporator, Union Health Insurance Co., February 22, 1849; The Trenton Arms Co., March 11, 1862; The Trenton Zinc Co., March 19, 1862; The Trenton Car Works, March 18, 1863; Trenton Lock Co., March 9, 1866; The Trenton Hall & Building Association, March 15, 1866; and The New Jersey Trust & Safe Deposit Co., February 8, 1870. Born near Trenton, N. J., March 15, 1808; died at Trenton, N. J., August 23, 1874.

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NEWTON ALBERT KENDALL BUGBEE: Director, January 10, 1911; present incumbent. (See p. 110.)

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JOHN STORY CHAMBERS: Director, January 14, 1879; Vice-President and Director, May 23, 1887 to January 8, 1889. Treasurer and Director, Trenton Gas Light Co., June 23, 1856; General





Manager and Director, June 8, 1857 to 1898; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 15, 1859; Secretary and Treasurer, March 13, 1866, and resigned August 28, 1869; Manager, September 7, 1869, and resigned January 24, 1871; Manager October 21, 1884, to February 23, 1901; City Commissioner of Trenton Sinking Fund—serving without bond, July 4, 1865, and resigned April 13, 1899; Director, Merchants Transportation Co., February 5, 1883; President and Director, December 10, 1884 to 1900; Director, Penn Gas Coal Co., January 27, 1894, and resigned February 5, 1900. Born at Trenton, N. J., November 27, 1822; died at Trenton, N. J., February 23, 1901.

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ROBERT CHAMBERS: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835. Farmer. Born at Trenton, N. J., July 2, 1788; died at New York, N. Y., February 22, 1865.

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JAMES HERVEY CLARK: Cashier, November 7, 1870; Cashier and Director, January 8, 1878; Cashier, January 9, 1883 to April 2, 1883. City Treasurer of Trenton, 1852-1853; and 1859-1862. Born near Pennington, N. J., February 10, 1823; died at Trenton, N. J., June 6, 1882.

\* \* \* \* \*

SAMUEL COMLY: Director, April 14, 1835 to April 11, 1837. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa. Commission Merchant. Born at Philadelphia, Pa., April 15, 1789; died at Brooklyn, N. Y., February 15, 1866.

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WILLIAM JOHN CONVERY: Director, January 14, 1913; present incumbent. (See p. III.)

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ELIAS COOK: Director, April 14, 1857 to June 30, 1865. Lumber Merchant. Died at Trenton, N. J., October 1, 1879, aged 62 years.

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WILLIAM GRANT COOK: Director, April 10, 1838 to April 14, 1840. Lumber Merchant and Real Estate. Born near Princeton, N. J., August 20, 1806; died at Trenton, N. J., June 19, 1875.

SAMUEL MEREDITH DICKINSON: Director, January 13, 1891 to January 14, 1902. Paymaster, U. S. Navy, June 17, 1861, and resigned November 1, 1862; Private Secretary to Gov. Joel Parker, 1863-1866; Colonel and Asst. Adjutant General of New Jersey, December 27, 1865; Brevet Brigadier General and retired July 5, 1893; Deputy State Comptroller, 1865-1871; Chief Clerk of Court of Chancery, 1871-1905; President, Trenton & Ewing Turnpike Co., 1891-1893; and Director, The Real Estate, Safe Deposit, Trust & Investment Co., April 21, 1890 to April 18, 1892. Born at Trenton, N. J., June 25, 1839; died at Trenton, N. J., January 29, 1905.

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GEORGE DILL: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835; April 11, 1837 to April 10, 1838; April 23, 1838, and declined April 30, 1838; April 13, 1841; President and Director, January 6, 1845, to April 13, 1852. Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844, and resigned December 3, 1853. Born at Philadelphia, Pa., February 7, 1772; died at Trenton, N. J., December 31, 1856.

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JOHN REDINGER DILL: Director, April 10, 1838, and declined April 21, 1838; September 3, 1874 to October 17, 1880. Member of New Jersey Assembly, 1849. Born at Trenton, N. J., October 16, 1804; died at Trenton, N. J., October 17, 1880.

\* \* \* \* \*

SERING POTTER DUNHAM: Director, January 8, 1889; President and Director, April 7, 1890 to January 9, 1899. Dry Goods Merchant. Born at Larger Cross Roads, Somerset County, N. J., October 20, 1842; died at Trenton, N. J., November 16, 1913.

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ALEXANDER DUNN: Director, January 10, 1888 to January 12, 1891. Hardware Merchant. Director, The Real Estate, Safe Deposit, Trust and Investment Co., January 26, 1887, and resigned May 19, 1887; and Director, Broad Street National Bank, 1887-1891. Died at Trenton, N. J., March 20, 1891, aged 48 years.

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SAMUEL I. EMLEY: Director, November 6, 1837 to April 10, 1838. Dry Goods Merchant. Died at Philadelphia, Pa., March 30, 1860.







EDWARD WATERMAN EVANS: Director, January 11, 1870 to January 13, 1891. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1860; Director, Trenton Gas Light Co., 1873-1876; and Treasurer, City Gas Light Co., 1879-1891. Born at Trenton, N. J., October 9, 1837.

\* \* \* \* \*

SAMUEL EVANS: Director, April 11, 1837 to April 9, 1839; April 14, 1840; President and Director, April 16, 1840; President, April 13, 1841 to April 15, 1841. City Treasurer of Trenton, 1837-1839; 1840-1841; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 1838-1842; and Treasurer, Trenton Water Works, 1840-1846. Born at Trenton, N. J., February 22, 1792; died at Trenton, N. J., January 15, 1881.

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ISAAC GRAY FARLEE: Director, April 14, 1835 to April 11, 1837; April 14, 1841 to April 8, 1845. Residence, Flemington, N. J. Merchant. Colonel, 1st Regiment Hunterdon County Militia, February 10, 1816; Brigadier-General December 9, 1823, and resigned February 26, 1830; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1818-1819; 1827-1829; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, November 23, 1822; April 1, 1852, to January 12, 1855; Clerk of Hunterdon County, 1830-1840; Representative of Congress from New Jersey, 1843-1845; Member New Jersey Senate, 1847-1849; and President, Hunterdon County Bank, April 15, 1854 to January 12, 1855. Born near White House, N. J., May 18, 1787; died at Flemington, N. J., January 12, 1855.

\* \* \* \* \*

JONATHAN FISK: Cashier, April 13, 1852; Cashier and Director, December 12, 1861; Vice-President and Director, May 6, 1867, to January 11, 1870. Cashier, banking department New Hope Delaware Bridge Co., January 1, 1838 to January 6, 1845; Treasurer, Trenton Saving Fund Society, June 21, 1847; Secretary and Treasurer, July 9, 1847; Manager, March 13, 1866 to December 5, 1872; and City Treasurer of Trenton, 1849-1852; and 1853-1858. Incorporator, The Mercer Pottery Co., March 28, 1866; and The East Trenton Land & Building Co., April 6, 1866. Born at Waitsfield, Vt., May 6, 1809; died at Allentown, N. J., December 5, 1872.



EDWARD WATERMAN EVANS: Director, January 11, 1870 to January 13, 1891. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1860; Director, Trenton Gas Light Co., 1873-1876; and Treasurer, City Gas Light Co., 1879-1891. Born at Trenton, N. J., October 9, 1837.

\* \* \* \* \*

SAMUEL EVANS: Director, April 11, 1837 to April 9, 1839; April 14, 1840; President and Director, April 16, 1840; President, April 13, 1841 to April 15, 1841. City Treasurer of Trenton, 1837-1839; 1840-1841; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 1838-1842; and Treasurer, Trenton Water Works, 1840-1846. Born at Trenton, N. J., February 22, 1792; died at Trenton, N. J., January 15, 1881.

\* \* \* \* \*

ISAAC GRAY FARLEE: Director, April 14, 1835 to April 11, 1837; April 14, 1841 to April 8, 1845. Residence, Flemington, N. J. Merchant. Colonel, 1st Regiment Hunterdon County Militia, February 10, 1816; Brigadier-General December 9, 1823, and resigned February 26, 1830; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1818-1819; 1827-1829; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, November 23, 1822; April 1, 1852, to January 12, 1855; Clerk of Hunterdon County, 1830-1840; Representative of Congress from New Jersey, 1843-1845; Member New Jersey Senate, 1847-1849; and President, Hunterdon County Bank, April 15, 1854 to January 12, 1855. Born near White House, N. J., May 18, 1787; died at Flemington, N. J., January 12, 1855.

\* \* \* \* \*

JONATHAN FISK: Cashier, April 13, 1852; Cashier and Director, December 12, 1861; Vice-President and Director, May 6, 1867, to January 11, 1870. Cashier, banking department New Hope Delaware Bridge Co., January 1, 1838 to January 6, 1845; Treasurer, Trenton Saving Fund Society, June 21, 1847; Secretary and Treasurer, July 9, 1847; Manager, March 13, 1866 to December 5, 1872; and City Treasurer of Trenton, 1849-1852; and 1853-1858. Incorporator, The Mercer Pottery Co., March 28, 1866; and The East Trenton Land & Building Co., April 6, 1866. Born at Waitsfield, Vt., May 6, 1809; died at Allentown, N. J., December 5, 1872.

DANIEL PARRY FORST: Director, April 12, 1864; Vice-President and Director, November 20, 1882; President and Director, January 9, 1883 to May 9, 1887. Wholesale Grocer. Director, Peoples Fire Insurance Co., 1867-1868; President, Board of Trade, 1874; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, February 16, 1883, to May 9, 1887; and Director, The Real Estate, Safe Deposit, Trust & Investment Co., January 26, 1887 to May 9, 1887. Incorporator, The Trenton Vise & Tool Co., March 5, 1868; and The New Jersey Trust & Safe Deposit Co., March 26, 1872. Born at New Hope, Pa., April 11, 1822; died at Trenton, N. J., May 9, 1887.

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EZRA BOURNE FULLER: Director, April 9, 1861 to January 12, 1869; January 13, 1874 to September 14, 1874. Banker. Graduate of Bowdoin College, Class 1828. Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 17, 1863 to September 14, 1874. Born at Augusta, Me., February 10, 1807; died at Trenton, N. J., September 14, 1874.

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WILLIAM GRANT: Director, April 11, 1837; President and Director, April 13, 1837; President, April 14, 1840 to April 16, 1840. State Treasurer of New Jersey, 1832; Incorporator, The Assanpink Manufacturing Co., February 28, 1835; and Trenton Gas & Insurance Co., February 26, 1838. Born near Trenton, N. J., August 21, 1791; died at Lebanon, Pa., June 21, 1872.

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CHARLES GUSTAVUS GREEN: Director, April 12, 1836 to April 14, 1840. Lumber Merchant. Graduate of Princeton, Class of 1831; Incorporator, The Trenton Flax Co., February 4, 1837. Born at Lawrenceville, N. J., May 2, 1812; died at Trenton, N. J., January 7, 1847.

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EDWARD THOMAS GREEN: Director, January 10, 1888; resigned October 28, 1889. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1854; Graduate of Harvard, Class 1858; Major, 3d Battalion, Infantry, National Guard of New Jersey, June 28, 1869, and resigned March 15, 1872; Director, The Real Estate, Safe Deposit, Trust & Investment Co., January 26, 1887; President and Director, May 19, 1887; President, April 16, 1888, and resigned July 26, 1888; Judge U. S. District Court of New Jersey, 1889-1896; and Trustee of



SAMUEL R. HAMILTON  
HENRY W. GREEN      JAMES WILSON  
SCOTT SCAMMELL  
STACY G. POTTS      MERCER BEASLEY  
GARRET D. W. VROOM



Princeton College, 1891-1896. Born at Trenton, N. J., June 8, 1837; died at Trenton, N. J., October 10, 1896.

\* \* \* \* \*

GEORGE SMITH GREEN: Director, April 9, 1839 to April 14, 1840. Lumber Merchant. Born at Lawrenceville, N. J., June 28, 1798; died at Trenton, N. J., November 17, 1883.

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HENRY WOODHULL GREEN: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 12, 1836; May 1, 1837, and declined May 11, 1837; June 4, 1838, and declined June 6, 1838; April 9, 1839 to April 14, 1840; and Attorney, April 20, 1837 to April 20, 1840. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1820; Trustee of Princeton Seminary, 1833-1876; Chancery Reporter, February 28, 1838 to November 2, 1846; Member of New Jersey Assembly, 1842-1843; Member of New Jersey Constitutional Convention, 1844; Chief Justice Supreme Court of New Jersey, November 2, 1846; Chancellor of New Jersey, March 15, 1860, and resigned May 1, 1866; and Trustee of Princeton College, 1850-1876. Born at Lawrenceville, N. J., September 20, 1804; died at Trenton, N. J., December 19, 1876.

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JOHN CARR HAINES: Director, April 13, 1841 to April 8, 1845. General Store Merchant. Born at Evesham, N. J., in 1806; died at Trenton, N. J., May 19, 1845.

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GEORGE HALE: Director, March 5, 1863 to January 11, 1870. Pastor of Presbyterian Church at Pennington, N. J. Born at Catskill, N. Y., June 8, 1812; died at Philadelphia, Pa., November 11, 1888.

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SAMUEL RANDOLPH HAMILTON: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 11, 1837; Attorney, April 16, 1835 to April 20, 1837. Counsellor-at-Law. Brigadier-General and Quartermaster-General of New Jersey, March 3, 1837, and resigned September 18, 1855; and Mayor of Trenton, 1847-1849. Born at Princeton, N. J., June 7, 1790; died at Trenton, N. J., August 13, 1856.

**WILLIAM STETLER HANCOCK:** Director, November 4, 1889 to January 10, 1899. Banker and Capitalist. Director, Trenton Hall & Building Association, 1876 to May 25, 1915; Director, Ceramic Art Co., 1889 to 1906; Director, The Trenton Potteries Co., November 21, 1892 to May 25, 1915; New Jersey State Comptroller, 1894 to 1902; and Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 18, 1898 to May 25, 1915. Born at Trenton, N. J., October 10, 1854; died at Brown's Mills, N. J., May 25, 1915.

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**ABRAM STEVENS HEWITT:** Director, April 14, 1846 to April 11, 1848. Manufacturer. Secretary, Trenton Iron Co., February 16, 1847; and Mayor of New York City, N. Y., 1887-1889. Born at Haverstraw, N. Y., July 21, 1822; died at New York, N. Y., January 18, 1903.

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**CHURCHILL HOUSTON:** Director, April 11, 1837 to April 10, 1838; April 9, 1839 to April 14, 1840; April 13, 1841 to April 11, 1843. Woolen Manufacturer at Groveville, N. J. Born at Trenton, N. J., and died at Philadelphia, Pa., January 15, 1845.

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**JAMES HOY:** Director, March 19, 1835 to April 9, 1839; April 14, 1840, and declined April 16, 1840; April 13, 1841, and resigned June 14, 1841. Cotton Manufacturer. Director, Trenton Delaware Falls Co., June 2, 1834. Born in Ireland; died at Trenton, N. J., March 29, 1852, aged 68 years.

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**JOHN HOWARD INGHAM:** Director, June 30, 1859 to June 30, 1865. Retired. Born near New Hope, Pa., April 16, 1804; died at Philadelphia, Pa., February 16, 1866.

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**SAMUEL DELUSENNA INGHAM:** Director, April 9, 1850, and resigned June 30, 1859. Retired. Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, September 6, 1851 to June 5, 1860; Member Pennsylvania Assembly, 1805-1807; Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, July 6, 1819 to December 19, 1820; Representative in Congress from Pennsylvania, March 4, 1813 to July 6, 1818, and from December 2, 1822 to March 3, 1829; and Secretary of the Treasury of the United



States, March 6, 1829, and resigned June 21, 1831. Born at Great Springs, near New Hope, Pa., September 16, 1779; died at Trenton, N. J., June 5, 1860.

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MATTHEW C. JENKINS: Director, April 12, 1853 to April 10, 1855. Coal and Lumber Merchant. Died at Philadelphia, Pa., May 12, 1855.

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HENRY COOPER KELSEY: Director, January 16, 1888; Vice-President and Director, February 1, 1894; present incumbent. (See p. 105.)

\* \* \* \* \*

JACOB KLINE: Director, April 13, 1841; President and Director, April 15, 1841 to November 15, 1844. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1820-1825, and 1830-1831; Colonel, Second Regiment, Somerset Brigade, New Jersey Militia, March 1, 1828, and resigned March 4, 1835; Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp, Staff Gov. Peter D. Vroom, June 2, 1830 to October 26, 1832, and February 10, 1834 to 1836; State Treasurer of New Jersey, 1836; Incorporator, The Trenton Insurance Co., March 2, 1842; and Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844 to November 15, 1844. Born near Pluckamin, N. J., April 8, 1783; died at Trenton, N. J., November 15, 1844.

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ROBERT CURTIS KOLB: Director, December 10, 1914; present incumbent. (See p. 112.)

\* \* \* \* \*

RUDOLPH VICTOR KUSER: Director, October 12, 1905; present incumbent. (See p. 109.)

\* \* \* \* \*

ANDERSON LALOR: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1840. Farmer. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1835-1836. Died in Nottingham Township, Mercer County, N. J., December 8, 1845.

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WILLIAM MERSHON LANNING: Director, February 26, 1894; President and Director, January 12, 1899; Director, April 27, 1899, and resigned October 9, 1905; Attorney, March 12, 1894, and re-

signed June 6, 1904. Counsellor-at-Law. Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 15, 1898 to February 16, 1912; Director, Real Estate Title Co., April 18, 1898 to February 16, 1912; Representative in Congress from New Jersey, 1903-1904; Judge U. S. District Court of New Jersey, 1904; and Judge U. S. Circuit Court, 1909-1912. Born near Ewing, N. J., January 1, 1849; died at Trenton, N. J., February 16, 1912.

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JOSEPH LIPPINCOTT: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841; and April 12, 1842 to April 11, 1843. Residence, Cinnaminson, N. J. Farmer. Born near Westfield, N. J., November 11, 1778; died at Cinnaminson (Riverton), N. J., July 12, 1856.

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JOLLY LONGSHORE: Director, April 14, 1835 to April 11, 1837. Residence, Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County, Pa. Farmer. Died at Yardley, Pa., August 29, 1868, aged 82 years.

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SAMUEL McCLURG: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 11, 1837; April 10, 1838 to April 14, 1840; and April 13, 1841 to November 16, 1855. Judge Court of Common Pleas, 1837-1854; and Incorporator, Trenton Gas & Insurance Co., February 26, 1838. Born at Philadelphia, Pa., 1791; died at Trenton, N. J., November 16, 1855.

\* \* \* \* \*

EDWARD SHIPPEN McILVAINE: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835. Residence, near Ewing, N. J. Farmer. Major, Hunterdon County Squadron, New Jersey Militia, December 20, 1824, and resigned February 15, 1831; and Member New Jersey Assembly, 1830-1833. Born at Philadelphia, Pa., October 1, 1787; died near Ewing, N. J., September 13, 1843.

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JOHN MCKELWAY: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835. Physician. Director, Trenton Delaware Falls Co., June 2, 1834; and Postmaster of Trenton, June 17, 1842 to July 5, 1843. Born at Glasgow, Scotland, January 7, 1788; died at Trenton, N. J., April 23, 1877.

ARCHIBALD MIDDLETON MADDOCK: Director, April 23, 1900 to March 25, 1910. Manufacturer. Co-partner, Thomas Maddock & Sons, January 1, 1882; Director and Treasurer, Maddock Pottery Co., November 14, 1892 to March 25, 1910; Director and Treasurer, Thomas Maddock's Sons Co., January 15, 1902 to March 25, 1910; and Director and Treasurer, Jonathan Bartley Crucible Co., March 2, 1908 to March 25, 1910. Born at Liberty Corner, N. J., April 5, 1856, and died at Trenton, N. J., March 25, 1910.

\* \* \* \* \*

ARCHIBALD MIDDLETON MADDOCK: Director, January 29, 1914; present incumbent. (See p. 112.)

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLES SMITH MADDOCK: Director, March 31, 1910, and declined April 7, 1910. Manufacturer. Born, New York, N. Y., November 22, 1852.

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HARRY SMITH MADDOCK: Director, April 14, 1910, to January 24, 1914. Manufacturer. Co-partner, Thomas Maddock & Sons, January 1, 1887; Director, Maddock Pottery Co., November 14, 1892 to January 24, 1914; Vice-President and Director, Thomas Maddock's Sons Co., January 15, 1902; President and Director, March 30, 1910 to January 24, 1914; and Director, Jonathan Bartley Crucible Co., March 2, 1908 to January 24, 1914. Born at Brooklyn, N. Y., July 15, 1861; died at Trenton, N. J., January 24, 1914.

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DAVID L. MILLER. Director, April 9, 1839 to April 14, 1840; and May 10, 1841 to April 12, 1853. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa.

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AARON MOORE: Director, April 9, 1839 to April 14, 1840. Residence, near Ewing, N. J. Farmer. Judge Court of Common Pleas, January 19, 1838; and Director, Taylorsville Bridge Co., 1840. Born near Ewing, N. J., October 23, 1775; died near Ewing, N. J., December 17, 1849.

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IMLAH MOORE: Director, April 10, 1849, to January 13, 1874. Flour Manufacturer. Vice-President, Lambertville Water Power

Co., 1857; President, Trenton Gas Light Co., 1867-1870; Director, Washington Market Co., 1870; President and Director, 1873-1880; and President, East Trenton Porcelain Co., 1870. Incorporator, People's Fire Insurance Co., February 25, 1861; East Trenton Porcelain Co., February 18, 1864; The East Trenton Crockery & Kaoline Co., March 28, 1865; The East Trenton Land & Building Co., April 6, 1866; The Mercer Pottery Co., March 28, 1866; and The Continental Saw Co., April 1, 1869. Born at Moore's Mills in Hopewell Township, Mercer County, N. J., April 13, 1810; died at Trenton, N. J., November 21, 1882.

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JOHN MOSES: Director, January 9, 1883; President and Director, May 16, 1887; Director, March 27, 1890, and resigned April 23, 1900. President, Board of Trade, 1875; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, July 17, 1883, and resigned January 17, 1899; Director, The Real Estate, Safe Deposit, Trust & Investment Co., January 26, 1887; Treasurer and Director, April 16, 1888; President, Treasurer and Director, July 30, 1888, and resigned March 25, 1890; President, People's Electric Light Co., 1888-1889; Director, Trenton Watch Co., 1888; and President and Director, 1895 to 1901. Incorporator, Glasgow Pottery Co., March 21, 1873. Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, December 25, 1832; died at Trenton, N. J., January 21, 1902.

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ALFRED MUIRHEAD: Director, April 14, 1863 to June 30, 1865. Residence, near Trenton. Farmer and Brick Manufacturer. Born at Harborton, N. J., August 6, 1831; died near Trenton, N. J., May 25, 1875.

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WILLIAM W. NORCROSS: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841. Grocery Merchant. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1838. Born at Bordentown, N. J., 1798; died at Trenton, N. J., June 16, 1866.

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CHARLES PARKER: Director, February 19, 1834; Cashier and Director, April 15, 1834; Cashier, April 14, 1835; Cashier and Director, April 12, 1836; President and Director, April 14, 1836; Presi-

dent, April 11, 1837; Cashier, April 13, 1837, and resigned April 20, 1840; Director, April 8, 1845 to April 14, 1846. Sheriff, Monmouth County, 1814-1817; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1817-1819; 1821; State Treasurer of New Jersey, 1821-1832, and 1833-1836; State Librarian, 1823-1828; Judge Court Common Pleas, Hunterdon County, 1835; Director, The Trenton City Bridge Co., 1842; and Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844, and resigned June 21, 1847. Born near Smithburg, Monmouth County, N. J., April 27, 1787; died at Trenton, N. J., October 4, 1862.

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LEWIS WILLIAM RANDOLPH PHILLIPS: Director, April 14, 1835, and resigned May 1, 1837; and April 10, 1838 to April 14, 1840. Residence, Lawrenceville, N. J. Farmer. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1808; Trustee, Princeton Seminary, 1834-1855; Judge Court of Common Pleas, Hunterdon County, January 19, 1838; and Judge Court of Common Pleas, Mercer County, October 28, 1838. Died at Lawrenceville, N. J., January 31, 1855, aged 64 years.

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PHILIP SEVERN PHILLIPS: Director, April 11, 1843 to August 17, 1860. Seed Merchant. Incorporator, Union Health Insurance Co., February 22, 1849; and The Crosswicks and Trenton Turnpike Co., March 17, 1854. Born at Trenton, N. J., April 28, 1806; died at Trenton, N. J., August 17, 1860.

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BALTES PICKEL: Director, October 5, 1874 to January 14, 1879. Coal and Lime Merchant. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1867-1868; and President, The Peoples Savings Bank, 1870-1877. Incorporator, Hunterdon Railroad Co., March 14, 1867; and Mercer County Bank, March 1, 1870. Died at Raritan, N. J., November 24, 1890.

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STACY GARDNER POTTS: Director, February 19, 1834, and resigned July 10, 1837; and April 13, 1841, and resigned February 9, 1852; Attorney, April 21, 1842 to February 2, 1852. Counsellor-at-Law. Editor of the Trenton Emporium, June 2, 1821 to 1827; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1828-1829; Secretary, Trenton Delaware Falls Co., 1831-1834; Clerk of Court of Chancery of New Jersey, 1831-1840; Trustee of Lafayette College, 1843-1846; Manager,

Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844; President and Manager, June 21, 1847; Manager, February 10, 1852, and resigned April 13, 1852; Director of Princeton Seminary, 1849-1861; and Associate Justice Supreme Court of New Jersey, February 28, 1852 to April 9, 1865. Born at Harrisburg, Pa., November 23, 1799; died at Trenton, N. J., April 9, 1865.

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WILLIAM HENRY POTTS: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 12, 1842. Tanner. Born at Trenton, N. J., October 5, 1815; died at Trenton, N. J., January 25, 1901.

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JOSEPH HANKINSON READING: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841. Residence, Flemington, N. J. Merchant. Born at Flemington, N. J., August 25, 1814; died at Raritan, N. J., October 22, 1857.

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JOSEPH RICE: Director, January 13, 1891; Vice-President and Director, August 5, 1909 to July 14, 1913. Retired clothing merchant. Director, Trenton Hall & Building Association, 1871-1913; and Director, Ceramic Art Co., 1889-1906. Born at Riechen, Baden, Germany, June 26, 1834; died at Belmar, N. J., July 14, 1913

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AUGUSTUS GODLEY RICHEY: Director, April 8, 1856; Attorney and Director, April 20, 1857; Vice-President, Attorney and Director, January 10, 1889 to January 15, 1894. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Lafayette College, Class 1840. Director, Lambertville Water Power Co., 1857; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 23, 1858; Vice-President and Manager, January 20, 1880 to January 15, 1894; Member New Jersey Senate, 1866-1868; Director, Trenton Gas Light Co., 1867; President and Director, 1873-1874; Director, Penn Gas Coal Co., 1869 to January 15, 1894; Director, Standard Fire Insurance Co., February 6, 1871 to January 15, 1894; Director, Hamilton Rubber Works, 1872; Director, Enterprise Land Co., July 15, 1873; President and Director, November 17, 1891 to January 15, 1894; Director, Delaware & Bound Brook Railroad Co., March 12, 1875; Vice-President and Director, November 9, 1892 to January 15, 1894; Director, Keystone Coal Co., May 7, 1883 to December 11, 1893; Director, East Trenton Railroad Co., April 17, 1884;

Vice-President and Director, November 10, 1892 to January 15, 1894. Born near Asbury, N. J., March 17, 1819; died at Trenton, N. J., January 15, 1894.

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ISAAC FARLEE RICHEY: Director, January 10, 1899; present incumbent. (See p. 108.)

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CHARLES GUSTAVUS ROEBLING: Director, January 9, 1883 to January 14, 1890. Manufacturer. Vice-President and Director, The John A. Roebling's Sons Co., January 1, 1876; President and Director, January 8, 1877 to October 5, 1918; President and Director, New Jersey Wire Cloth Co., November 1, 1878 to October 5, 1918; and Member New Jersey Assembly, 1893. Born at Trenton, N. J., December 9, 1849; died at Trenton, N. J., October 5, 1918.

\* \* \* \* \*

FERDINAND WILLIAM ROEBLING: Director, January 12, 1869, and resigned September 19, 1892; and November 28, 1892 to March 16, 1917. Capitalist and Manufacturer. Director, Standard Fire Insurance Co., March 18, 1869; Vice President and Director, March 16, 1870 to March 16, 1917; Director, Trenton Hall & Building Association, 1873 to 1899; Secretary, Treasurer and Director, The John A. Roebling's Sons Co., June 1, 1876 to March 16, 1917; Treasurer and Director, New Jersey Wire Cloth Co., November 1, 1878 to March 16, 1917; President and Director, Union Mills Paper Manufacturing Co., January 13, 1881 to March 16, 1917; Director, Inter-State Fair Association, June 23, 1888 to March 16, 1917; Director, The Universal Paper Bag Co., July 18, 1889; President and Director, July 6, 1909 to March 16, 1917; Director, Otis Elevator Co., December 5, 1898 to March 16, 1917; Director, The United Power and Transportation Co., May 11, 1899 to March 16, 1917; President and Director, Trenton Brass & Machine Co., October 11, 1899 to March 16, 1917; Director, Inter-State Railways Co., March 2, 1903 to March 16, 1917; Director, Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, June 3, 1903 to March 16, 1917; Director, National Copper Bank, of New York, April 15, 1907 to January 29, 1910; and Director, The Mechanics and Metals Bank, of New York, January 29, 1910 to March 16, 1917. Born at Saxonburgh, Pa., February 27, 1842; died at Trenton, N. J., March 16, 1917.

FERDINAND WILLIAM ROEBLING, JR.: Director, January 10, 1911; present incumbent. (See p. 109).

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KARL GUSTAVUS ROEBLING: Director, January 14, 1902 to January 10, 1911; and March 22, 1917; present incumbent. (See p. 113).

\* \* \* \* \*

ZACHARIAH ROSSELL: Director, April 11, 1837 to April 9, 1839; and April 14, 1840 to July 21, 1842. Captain, 15th U. S. Infantry, March 12, 1812; Major, 25th Regiment, December 31, 1813; transferred to 15th Regiment April 27, 1814; discharged June 15, 1815; Brigadier-General and Adjutant General of New Jersey, May 1, 1816, and resigned July 13, 1842; Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, 1817 to July 21, 1842; and Director, The Trenton City Bridge Co., 1842. Incorporator, The Trenton Manufacturing Co., February 20, 1834; The Trenton Silk Manufacturing Co., March 9, 1836; Trenton Gas & Insurance Co., February 26, 1838; and Nottingham Manufacturing Co., February 27, 1839. Born at Mt. Holly, N. J., November 17, 1788; died at Trenton, N. J., July 21, 1842

\* \* \* \* \*

JOHN DAVISON RUE: Director, January 13, 1891 to January 10, 1912. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1878-1879; Member New Jersey Senate, 1887-1892; President, The John I. Smith Fertilizer Co., 1889-1902; and President, Trenton Bone Fertilizer Co., 1902-1912. Born at West Windsor, N. J., July 26, 1833; died at Trenton, N. J., January 10, 1912.

\* \* \* \* \*

CALEB SAGER: Director, April 10, 1855 to April 12, 1864. Steward, New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, 1848-1875; and President and Director, First National Bank, at Trenton, 1864-1868. Born at Georgetown, N. J., October 26, 1815; died at Vincentown, N. J., July 5, 1875.

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JOHN SAGER: Director, April 13, 1841 to March 14, 1855. Lumber Merchant. Born near Freehold, N. J., February 6, 1798; died at Trenton, N. J., March 14, 1855.



SCOTT SCAMMELL: Director, January 10, 1911; Attorney and Director, March 9, 1914; present incumbent. (See p. 109).

\* \* \* \* \*

JASPER SMITH SCUDDER: Director, February 19, 1834; President and Director, April 15, 1834; President, April 12, 1836; Cashier, April 14, 1836, to April 13, 1837. General Store Merchant. Born at Scudder Falls, N. J., October 17, 1797; died at Trenton, N. J., October 20, 1877.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAMES TUTTLE SHERMAN: Director, April 8, 1845 to April 10, 1849; and April 11, 1854 to April 13, 1858. Graduate of Yale, Class 1833; Editor of The State Gazette, January 1, 1836 to February 1, 1853; and Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 7, 1854, to May 20, 1862. Born at Trenton, N. J., December 21, 1814; died at Trenton, N. J., May 20, 1862.

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RALPH HART SHREVE: Director, April 11, 1837 to April 9, 1839. Clerk, New Jersey Assembly, 1837-1838; Clerk of Mercer County, February 28, 1838 to 1853; and Clerk U. S. District Court of New Jersey, 1863. Incorporator, The Trenton Flax Co., February 4, 1837. Born at Lawrenceville, N. J., January 18, 1805; died at Trenton, N. J., August 20, 1868.

\* \* \* \* \*

WILLIAM HARRY SKIRM: Director, January 10, 1888, and declined January 16, 1888. Manufacturer. Born at Trenton, N. J., January 17, 1841; died at Trenton, N. J., October 7, 1905.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLES WILLIAMS SLOAN: Director, April 6, 1885 to January 13, 1891. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1869. President, Treasurer and Director, Mercer Rubber Co., January 5, 1874, to 1891. Born at Flemington, N. J., December 3, 1849.

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JONATHAN STEWARD: Director, April 14, 1840, to April 13, 1841. General Store Merchant. Born near Crosswicks, N. J., May 8, 1809; died at Trenton, N. J., July 22, 1901.

EDWARD CASPER STOKES: Director, January 10, 1899; President and Director, April 27, 1899; present incumbent. (See p. 105).

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EDWARD HARRIS STOKES: Director, January 11, 1881 to January 10, 1888. Capitalist. Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, June 24, 1881 to February 17, 1900. Born at Moorestown, N. J., June 22, 1824; died at Trenton, N. J., February 17, 1900.

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SAMUEL DAVIS STRYKER: Director, April 8, 1845 to January 11, 1863. Residence, Lambertville, N. J. Manager, New Hope Delaware Bridge Co., 1840; and President and Director, Lambertville Bank, June 20, 1857 to January 11, 1863. Incorporator, Lambertville and Flemington Plank Road Co., March 19, 1851. Born near Pittstown, N. J., January 27, 1790; died at Lambertville, N. J., January 11, 1863.

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SAMUEL STANHOPE STRYKER: Director, April 14, 1835 to April 11, 1837; and April 30, 1838, and declined May 21, 1838. Miller. State Treasurer of New Jersey, May 31, 1847. Born at Princeton, N. J., November 2, 1797; died at Trenton, N. J., February 9, 1875.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLES SWAN: Director, January 10, 1882 to January 10, 1888. Superintendent, The John A. Roebling's Sons Co., 1848 to 1873; and Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, June 2, 1870 to January 28, 1897. Born at Breslau, West Prussia, Germany, March 12, 1822; died at Trenton, N. J., January 28, 1897.

\* \* \* \* \*

BENJAMIN WESLEY TITUS: Director, April 10, 1849, and resigned December 12, 1861. Dry Goods Merchant. Incorporator, Union Health Insurance Co., February 22, 1849; and Trenton Oil Cloth Manufacturing Co., March 3, 1855. Died at Trenton, N. J., February 13, 1881.

\* \* \* \* \*

LISCOMB R. TITUS: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841. Grain Merchant. Born May 14, 1804; died at Trenton, N. J., May 3, 1873.

JOSEPH TYRRELL: Director, April 11, 1837, and resigned October 30, 1837. Retired. Born in England; died at Trenton, N. J., December 4, 1864, aged 89 years.

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AARON VAN SYCKEL: Director, April 12, 1842 to April 8, 1845. Residence, Union Township, Hunterdon Co., N. J. Farmer. Director, Trenton Banking Co., 1823; 1835 to 1873. Born in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, N. J., May 26, 1793; died in Union Township, Hunterdon County, N. J., January 4, 1874.

\* \* \* \* \*

PETER DUMONT VROOM: Director, April 12, 1853 to April 11, 1854; and April 13, 1858 to April 14, 1863. Counsellor-at-Law. Graduate of Columbia College, Class 1808; Judge Advocate, Somerset Brigade, Third Division, New Jersey Militia, March 1, 1813; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1826-1827, and 1829; Governor of New Jersey, November 6, 1829, to October 26, 1832, and October 25, 1833, and resigned November 3, 1836; Representative in Congress from New Jersey, March 19, 1840 to March 3, 1841; Member State Constitutional Convention, 1844; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, March 7, 1844; President and Manager, February 10, 1852; Manager, November 29, 1853, and resigned January 7, 1854; U. S. Minister to Prussia, 1853 to 1857; and Commissioner New Jersey State Sinking Fund, 1864-1872. Born at Hillsborough, N. J., December 12, 1791; died at Trenton, N. J., November 18, 1873.

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EDWARD WATERMAN: Director, April 11, 1837, and resigned May 4, 1837; June 5, 1837 to April 9, 1839; and April 13, 1841, and resigned May 10, 1841. Residence, Holmesburg Pa. Born at Holmesburg, Pa.; died at Holmesburg, Pa., July 31, 1858.

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JACOB WATERMAN: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841. Residence, Holmesburg, Pa. General Store Merchant. Born at Holmesburg, Pa., in 1777; died at Holmesburg, Pa., August 5, 1858.

JOHN A. WEART: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835. Proprietor, "Trenton Livery Stables," and U. S. Mail Contractor. Died at Trenton, N. J., March 14, 1854.

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WILLIAM WHITE: Director, May 4, 1837 to April 14, 1840. Retired. Member New Jersey Assembly, 1846-1847. Born at Lawrenceville, N. J., March 20, 1804; died at Trenton, N. J., January 10, 1872.

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FREDERICK REDINGER WILKINSON: Director, April 30, 1866, and resigned June 24, 1869; and January 11, 1870 to January 8, 1878. Lumber, Coal and Wood Merchant. Graduate of Princeton, Class 1857; Secretary and Treasurer, People's Fire Insurance Co., January 20, 1865, to 1868; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 16, 1872 to January 28, 1878. Incorporator, Capital Insurance Co., April 9, 1867; The People's Savings Bank, March 17, 1870; West Trenton Horse Railroad Co., March 9, 1871; and The New Jersey Trust & Safe Deposit Co., March 26, 1872. Born at Trenton, N. J., June 9, 1837; died at Trenton, N. J., December 30, 1883.

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OGDEN DUNGAN WILKINSON: Director, July 13, 1837 to April 10, 1838; and April 9, 1839 to August 27, 1866. Lumber and Coal Merchant. Director, Trenton Water Co., 1854. Incorporator, Trenton Cemetery Co., February 24, 1838. Born at Centerville, Bucks County, Pa.; died at Trenton, N. J., August 24, 1866.

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JAMES WILSON: Director, April 16, 1840; Attorney and Director, April 20, 1840; Attorney, April 13, 1841, to April 21, 1842 Counsellor-at-Law. Private Secretary to Governor William Pennington, October 27, 1837 to October 26, 1843; Prosecutor of the Pleas for Mercer County, February 28, 1838, and resigned November 8, 1842; Member New Jersey Assembly, 1840; and Clerk of the New Jersey Supreme Court, October 28, 1842, to November 2, 1852. Born at Greenbrook (now Plainfield), N. J., August 30, 1808; died at Trenton, N. J., February 11, 1884.

JOSEPH B. WILSON: Director, April 14, 1840 to April 13, 1841. Residence, Hamilton Township, Mercer County, N. J. Farmer. Removed to the Western Country about 1844.

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SAMUEL KIRKBRIDE WILSON: Director, April 8, 1856 to April 6, 1885. Capitalist and Woolen Manufacturer. Director, People's Fire Insurance Co., 1865-1868; President, State Savings Bank, 1869-1875; Manager, Trenton Saving Fund Society, January 28, 1878, to November 26, 1900; Director, Standard Fire Insurance Co., February 7, 1881, to November 26, 1900; President, Trenton Watch Co., 1887-1895, and Vice-President, 1897-1900. Born at Mullica Hill, N. J., March 6, 1819; died at Trenton, N. J., November 26, 1900.

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JOSEPH WOOD: Director, February 19, 1834 to April 14, 1835. Capitalist. Recorder of Trenton, April 12, 1853 to April 14, 1856; and Mayor of Trenton, April 19, 1856 to 1859. Born at Woodstown, N. J.; died at Trenton, N. J., May 8, 1860.



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- 3. Coll. N. J. Hist. Society, Vol. IV, pp. 107, 144.  
Lee—Hist. of Trenton, p. 23.
- 4. Raum—Hist. of Trenton, p. 89.
- 5. Hall—Hist. of Presbyterian Church (2d Ed.), p. 314.
- 6. N. J. Archives, Vol. XX, p. 441.
- 7. Stryker—Trenton One Hundred Years Ago, pp. 11, 7.
- 8. N. J. Gazette, May 17, 1780.  
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- 12. N. J. Gazette, July 12, 1780.
- 13. Minutes of Joint Meeting, State Library.
- 14. N. J. Archives (2d Ser.), Vol. V, p. 446.
- 15. N. J. Gazette, Feb. 21, 1781.
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- 18. Hall—Hist. of Presbyterian Church (2d Ed.), p. 171.
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- 23. Pap. Cont. Cong., Vol. 46, p. 79.  
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- 30. Pap. Cont. Cong., Vol. 46, pp. 43, 49.
- 31. Pap. Cont. Cong., No. 78, Vol. XXII, pp. 283-286.
- 32. Pap. Cont. Cong., Vol. 23, p. 157.
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- 36. Ballagh—The Letters of Richard H. Lee, Vol. II, pp. 296, 321.

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38. Pap. Cont. Cong., No. 19, Vol. 2, p. 253.
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40. Cont. Cong., Committee Book, No. 186, p. 172.
41. Pap. Cont. Cong., No. 19, Vol. 2, p. 259.
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44. Pap. Cont. Cong., No. 16, p. 315.
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48. In possession of Mr. C. L. Traver, Trenton, in 1908.
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68. N. J. State Gazette, Feb. 21, 1835.
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